

# Public Libraries

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## Books in Rural Communities<sup>1</sup>

Henry Keller, Jr., professor of Agricultural economics,  
N. J. Agricultural experiment station

In an issue of the *Survey*, May 29, 1920, appears an article by Wallace Meyer entitled *Setting books in motion*. It is not my purpose to take up such a side of the rural library problem, for doubtless all of you are far more familiar with such work than am I, and are likewise far more competent to solve such a problem than I. Because I am not a librarian, and not being familiar with the technical side of library work, I am not going to attempt to tell you how the library should be organized, or how the books should be cataloged, nor am I even going to worry you with a discussion of the proper methods of distribution.

It is enough to say that our states have awakened to the problem and have passed laws creating both state commissions and county library boards. Means have been provided by which books may be distributed by parcels post, library cars or wagons, or by which patrons may receive the books they wish by calling in person.

The various state libraries, thru the means of parcels post and extension librarians, are able to serve to some extent those rural people who are not reached by any other free library. When county libraries are established, liaison may be established between the state and county, and the people are more efficiently served.

Of late there has been developed what is known as "the community movement."

Groups with certain common interests have united and established for their own benefit combined recreational and educational centers. These centers usually take the form of what is called a community house. Here libraries are quite often established, and both state and county libraries may work thru these smaller units, providing the people in the community make this possible.

The important point concerning these libraries is that the state commission will furnish competent persons to help with the organization, and, with the help of a state specialist, well organized libraries may be established. It is something of a problem, at times, to arouse the enthusiasm of the tax-payers sufficiently for them to wish willingly to support such libraries, but the work carried on by the various library associations has made great headway and the growth has been steady. It is, therefore, not my aim to talk of the work you are so ably accomplishing, that of setting books in motion, but it is my hope to place before you a somewhat different problem, which concerns rural welfare, that of "setting minds in motion."

Rural people have been written about and discussed; they have been praised and condemned and all manner of schemes have been advanced to bring social emancipation to these people. As a rule, these ideas have been unsuccessful, and this is as true in library work as in other fields of social endeavor.

<sup>1</sup>Read at Atlantic City meeting, New Jersey library association, May 3, 1924.

Miss Askew, of the New Jersey State library commission, would probably state, were she asked to, that much of her work is undoing the things that have been started by over zealous but misguided philanthropists, people who hoped to be of service to rural folk. Library establishment has offered to kind-hearted wealthy persons a means by which they can create a philanthropic outlet, and when these endeavors are unsuccessful, the farm people are criticised for being unappreciative and selfish. For some unknown reason, the country folk have been the victims for years of amateur uplifters, and of late the method of rural uplift has entered itself in literary pursuits. It is needless to say farmers, nor their families, have responded.

When the United States government gave the "intelligence" tests to the army personnel, people who knew shook their heads in the "I told you so" manner, because the tests showed that the mental development of the country districts was inferior to that of the urban sections. It meant little to most people that these tests were largely informational tests based chiefly upon city experiences and city educational standards. Were anyone to give to this audience an "intelligence test" based upon country experiences, with questions such as How many spikes has a spiked tooth harrow? When is the best month to plant alfalfa—(make a cross under the proper month), January, April, June, July, August, October? What is the proper depth to plow and how is the plow set to accomplish this? I judge that 99 per cent of this audience would be judged subnormal, and that is something of a conservative estimate. But because a great group of people have been declared less intelligent by subjecting them to reactions upon phenomena they are more or less unfamiliar with, the rest of the public believes these unfortunates must be bettered. You know the results as well as I do, so I need not go any further in this matter.

Farm work is hard and, to some extent, monotonous. Division of labor has not had the effect upon the open country it

has had in the industrial world but, even at that, there are few thrills in farm operations. The hours are long and the work very fatiguing, so that when the day is over there is little desire to do anything but rest. Coupled with the above mentioned facts is also the present period of low prices for farm products so that the farm people turn their thoughts whenever possible to their immediate future. Is it any wonder that an animated lecturer who claims to have a panacea for farm ills will be more attractive to rural people than a book of Emerson's essays; and a lively moving picture of fighting, romance and success will appeal more to them than an illustrated lecture on The Holy Land—The birthplace of our religion? These people do not wish to think, for they are physically worn out. In other words, the minds have become dormant. When farmers were in school they were taught little about the problems that would be encountered in life on the farm. More time was spent in determining how much five loaves of bread will sell for when one loaf sold for six and a half cents. It has only been comparatively recent that we have seen the need of stimulating thought about the farm problems our present rural students will meet when they take up their farm life.

Again it was the habit of our educational system to stimulate love for literature by having children read Ruskin's *Sesame and lilies*, or some equally fascinating publication. Is it any wonder that the people in the country seem to avoid books? We never gave them a chance to see what beauty, what pleasures are contained within the covers of so many books of value. It is because of these things, the hard work and the long hours that I say the minds are dormant, and it is the problem of the librarians to set these minds once more in motion.

This must be done in two ways. The educational side must be taken care of and also effort must be made to give to the rural people literary recreation.

The educational problem is not a hard one but it requires a proper choice of books. Librarians cannot be expected to

be subject matter specialists, therefore, they should not depend upon their knowledge insofar as choice of books is concerned. Every state college of agriculture has a library with a librarian in charge and a letter addressed to the librarian will always receive the utmost attention. The librarian will select the books recommended by the college departments and in that way get a list of the best books for the purpose. This method is easy to follow and is the obvious method, and yet I have had experiences with a few librarians that have made me feel that the task is harder than it looks. Books that I know are sound have been rejected and in the place of these good books have been substituted worthless publications that will never benefit anyone. With a few good books to start on and the various free bulletins published by state and national experiment stations and departments of agriculture, rural people, thru the influence of their children, will soon come to appreciate the worth of such assistance and the educational problem will gradually take care of itself.

The biggest problem, however, is the one concerning the recreational feature. How can people be stimulated to read more and better books? Sometime ago I was asked to help a literary society. It was not a success, and yet several people devoted a great deal of time to the society. The group was a mixed one, composed largely of average farm housewives and a few ladies who lived in the country but who were highly developed from an educational viewpoint. The club read Shaw, Ibsen, and Wells. Every now and then they relaxed and read a bit of poetry, Swinburne, Keats, Shelley or Byron. Using a slang expression, the great mass of the club "did not know what it was all about." I took the leaders and told them frankly the trouble. They wished to uplift the community, but they started too high. They followed my advice and read Tom Sawyer. The farm women began to see that reading was worth-while, and that little reading club has developed into a community library which is active. Dickens, Shakes-

peare, Scott, and other authors are read frequently, and someday they will, no doubt, get back to Wells, but on a far different basis, and the people will want to read his books this time.

In other words, reading must be on the mental level of the readers. By that I mean that the book must appeal to the reader. Uplift will then take care of itself and the evil developing from a patronizing air will disappear. Nothing rankles more than to know that someone is trying to better your condition, while that same betterment can take place unconsciously when methods are altered to meet the special needs of the case.

There are plenty of books, not the so-called classics, that are worth reading, and librarians should start people with those books which the people can enjoy. The classics will eventually be included, but it usually takes time.

A great deal of this can be done thru the schools. The reading of certain books is a part of the curriculum; the pertinent thing is that interesting books should be selected. Today the children have that opportunity. Not many years ago they read only the books assigned. Interest can be stimulated by suggestion and many people will read other books by an author after they have enjoyed a first book. I only know of one high-school student who enjoyed Ruskin's *Sesame and lilies*, and that student knew that Ruskin was the author of *The king of the golden river*.

A great field lies untouched and a service remains yet to be done. The isolation of the rural sections will disappear if these people can be taught to read. It remains to the librarians to render this service, but the work will be tedious for the solution must be thru the aid of psychology rather than by technical training. In short, you must know the farm people. The effort should not be placed upon the results, "setting books in motion," but should be concentrated upon the cause, the latent mind, and by "setting the mind in motion," the books will move of themselves.

## Enlisting in National Service

Hilah Paulmier, Tremont branch library, New York City

We like to think that most people start out in life with a vision. Perhaps many, busy in chasing the "almighty dollar"—and watching it get away from them—have long since discarded this conception of their life work with which they started; but these are not the people who are, as we say, doing big things or taking any prominent part in serving their fellows. Doubtless the key to the success of those who have attained honor and fame is that they kept their visions in mind, and built up their plans of service around them.

We like to think that institutions start out with visions just as individuals do, and that the institutions which have been founded with the highest type of ideal are those which were established with the sole object of unselfish service, with no thought of reward. We like to think that great institutions for public service endeavor to maintain the ideals with which they were founded.

It is evident that many of the public libraries in this post-war period are the main sufferers from the hectic and blundering endeavors of city officials to cut municipal expenses. To use a slangy but effective phrase, the public libraries seem to have become the "goat" of the city departments at budget-making time. The writer feels that this period of discouragement to us, as library workers who have a vision of the great part that the public library could play in national service were it not so sorely hampered by lack of financial support, is the time for us to concentrate on conserving the high ideals of the institution of which we are a part. When we librarians become so disheartened and confused over our inability to secure adequate funds to support our work that we take a "we do enough" attitude, and get in the habit of being content in simply "shoving out" books to the usual patrons of the library, we are playing the "Dead march" over the vision which was packed into the corner-stone of every public library. The biggest job for us today is to get in touch

with the non-users of the library, those who need the library most. It isn't our job to let these people who greatly need the aid of the library go without its aid for fear we shall draw in more readers than we can serve. This is a confession of weakness and a veritable barbed-wire, poison-gas barricade in our pathway to service. Sam Walter Foss, librarian and poet of by-gone days, once wrote, "I believe that the great destiny of the public library is as yet but faintly foreseen. The plain truth is that the library has not yet tried to do its best. It has opened its doors to let people come in if they happen to be passing that way. No successful auctioneer does business according to any such method. On the contrary, he lifts up his voice to all whom it may concern and to all who do not know that there are about to be great bargains at his place. The business man who opens his store and then forever holds his peace has his solitude very infrequently interrupted by customers. The church that has no missionary spirit is as tepid as the old church of Laodicea."

We are especially reminded of the library's need of a missionary spirit when we remember that during the war the United States army draft brought to light rather astounding facts concerning illiteracy in our nation. We are today confronted with the truth that our country ranks eleventh in the literacy list of the leading nations. Countries which have fewer illiterates than the United States are Denmark, Switzerland, Holland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Scotland, England, and France. From 1910 to 1920, the United States illiteracy statistics in 12 states increased over 100,000, these states having received the greatest influx of immigrants during that period. The state and federal governments, and the American Legion, alarmed over these illiteracy figures, are pursuing an organized effort against this blot on our nation, thru the Education Week movement, started in 1922. Garland W. Powell, of the Legion's Americanism



committee recently said, "The American Legion is appalled at the discovery of America's low standing among the great powers of the world in point of literacy. The correction of this deplorable state of affairs will be one of the foremost activities of our committees." The Legion recommends that its members and other patriotic citizens take part in teaching immigrants to read and write and in helping them to become familiar with American history, institutions and system of government. Dr Frank P. Graves, as Commissioner of education of New York state, speaking of his intention to use the educational resources of the state, which came under his supervision in the drive against illiteracy, said he considered this movement one of the most important that has been attempted in New York state for some time.

When the American Legion is taking this strong stand against illiteracy and for Americanization thru the education of the illiterate and the foreigner, is not this the time for us, as library workers, representatives of the institution which is most admirably fitted to take part in this educational drive, as the "follow-up" institution of the public school, to rise to the opportunity which we have to serve our country, by aiding the library to take its part in this important patriotic work? Indeed, the writer feels that the institutions which should be largely held responsible for lowering the illiteracy figures are the public school and the public library; and that the gain in illiteracy in the past decade is a revelation of the failure of the public school and the public library thoroughly to get in touch with the illiterate and "un-read" population of our country. The commissioners of education have declared their intention of using the resources of the public schools to the limit in this drive against illiteracy. What stand is the public library going to take? Are we librarians going to consider our duty done when we have, for instance, posted on our bulletin boards announcements of the evening school sessions, etc.? What special effort are we making to cooperate with the schools in reaching the illiterate adults

and the immigrants who have little knowledge of our language? While the schools will be busied in teaching these illiterate adults the bare foundation of Americanization, the reading and writing of English, we have the broader and finer opportunity to follow up the work of the schools by getting in touch with these illiterates and foreigners and opening up to them the resources of the library, where they might, if they were only aware of it, secure broader culture and wider knowledge of our American institutions, customs, etc.

There seem to be many ways, hitherto largely undeveloped, by which we could cooperate with the schools more effectively in this work. One means might be the forming of librarian-teacher associations, organized with the purpose of making greater effort toward cooperation between the libraries and the schools. Another chance to reach the adult—which we seem to have failed fully to grasp—is thru the child, thru whom we might be able to get in touch with the parent. The writer feels that the public library should have bulletins in the classrooms of every evening school for adults, advertising the resources of the library. We should urge the teachers to interest these adult pupils of theirs in making use of the library. On the other hand, we could, perhaps, give more attention to urging our foreign readers to attend the English for foreigners classes in the public schools. In this respect, a librarian-teacher organization would be effective in inciting cooperation along this line.

Now, when this subject of a drive against illiteracy is such a timely one is our opportunity to enlist the aid of the newspaper and the cinema in giving us publicity in this work. Moreover, the church and the public library should feel duty bound to cooperate in the making use of this opportunity to do missionary work and to render national service. In the cooperation between church and library lies a great undeveloped field, one which it behooves us to look into.

Because of the fact that the greatest gain in illiteracy statistics is in those

states where the largest number of foreigners have settled, it behooves us ever to make increased effort to get in touch with the newly arrived immigrant. The foreigner who comes to our shores with his passion for justice and freedom magnified by his sufferings caused by the war, is, more than ever before, looking up to our country as the open door to liberty and a square deal. This is another instance where we have a chance to enlist in national service, in keeping the foreigner's faith in our country alive, by attempting to get in touch with him, and opening up to him the library's resources for leading him into the pathway of good citizenship. The library in the foreign section of our great cities has an opportunity to win the interest of the newly arrived immigrant which no other institution has because of the fact that it has books in the foreigner's own language. Because of this unusual opportunity, our duty is great. It behooves us, as individual workers, to put forth every effort to get in sympathetic touch with our foreign readers, by meeting them tactfully and kindly, and by studiously avoiding over effusiveness or a patronizing manner. We need to bear in mind that the foreigner's lack of knowledge of our language and institutions often makes him exceedingly timid and sensitive. We should, moreover, guard against giving him the impression that we are attempting to drag him across the threshold of Americanization, remembering that an overdrawn official attitude on our part is apt to be misunderstood by him. We should remember, too, that the foreigner's lack of knowledge of our own language does not necessarily imply lack of intelligence. Many of these foreign friends of ours are educated and students of the great literary masterpieces of their own language. It behooves us to make every effort to interest our adult foreign readers in attending English classes. To do so is to render a humane service to them as well as a patriotic service to our country; for the tragedy of the parents, who do not understand our language, growing away from their children who are being trained to speak only

English in our schools, is a serious problem. We might endeavor to have a library column in the foreign newspapers which are published in our cities, and placards in the public buildings in the foreign sections. It would, perhaps, be an effective means of publicity to give every child of foreign parentage who joins the library a letter, printed in the foreign language, cordially welcoming the parents, also, to become members of the library. Even the purchase of more foreign books for the libraries in the sections thickly populated by the newly arrived immigrants might have the ultimate effect of aiding in Americanization work instead of hindering it, as many people think; because it is thru our collection of foreign books that we are able to attract these immigrants to the library. Getting more closely in touch with the immigrant as soon as possible after he arrives is a very decided means of taking part in Americanization work by the side of the schools and the American Legion.

Thus, there are many ways in which we librarians can serve our country in helping to lower the illiteracy statistics and in general Americanization work, by attempting to come in contact with the immigrant and the illiterate non-user of the library. Let us bear in mind that we have enlisted in national service just as truly as the man in uniform, because we have elected to serve in an institution which has enormous possibilities for serving the nation. One of the most effective means of promoting this service is by constant effort to draw into the library all people, not by being content faithfully to serve a part.

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"New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth:

They must upward still, and onward, who would keep abreast of Truth;

Lo, before us gleam her camp-fires! We ourselves must Pilgrims be,

Launch our Mayflower, and steer boldly through the desperate winter sea,

Nor attempt the Future's portal with the Past's blood-rusted key."

## Ideal Small Libraries for the Southwest

Mrs J. A. Thompson, librarian, Chickasha, Okla.

After 20 years of visiting and inspecting libraries from the Gulf to the Lakes, and New York to California, it is a joy to be asked to help design ideal small libraries for the Southwest. I feel the pride of ownership in all American libraries, but naturally my own section is best beloved as well as most needy in plans for suitable library buildings.<sup>1</sup>

The general principles stated in Miss Gunter's paper (*P. L.* 29:227-229) are axioms to observant investigators of the subject. Her logical analysis of conditions, climatic, social, racial, and financial, her explanations as to influence of topography, rainfall, winds and nature of the soil, have given us common ground for discussion and will form a good working basis for digesting our problems.

I find that my theories about interior arrangement for libraries were very largely shaped by the exhibit of Library Bureau in the Missouri building at the Louisiana Purchase exposition in 1904, and no doubt this exhibit crystallized ideas and standardized equipment in American libraries. Numerous modifications have developed, children's departments have expanded, gates have been removed, open stacks are the rule, but some of its features may be recognized in any library. My strongest reaction and most vivid impression in recalling that model aggregation is that it was a complete library in a single simple rectangular room. This has become the first article in my creed for a small library—one-room for all buildings up to \$20,000. *Eliminate partition walls.* This is indispensable where all the work is to be done by one person or one assistant, each working alone for part of the day's schedule. Working space, privacy and necessary segregation of material may be provided for by partitioned stacks of suitable height. Ease of supervision, elasticity of expansion in different departments, circulation of air, diffusion of

light, all require broad free spaces, whether the room be 15 or 50 feet square. A one-room building doesn't require an elaborate and expensive heating plant.

Miss Gunter has emphasized the necessity for low stacks and low windows for comfort in circulation of air and natural ventilation. "Where are the books to be placed?" one may ask. Double stacks, four and a half feet high, windows three feet from floor, three foot space between windows, shelves six feet high between windows, will provide shelf space if dimensions of room are made on that basis for probable number of books to be housed—25 average size books to each three-foot shelf, allowing adequate floor space for reading tables and chairs. The matter of shelving is a separate problem but it may be stated here that shelf room must be provided for each book owned by the library, though many of them will be in circulation all the time.

A one-room building is desirable, not alone for ease in supervision and keeping order, but it enables one person to direct patrons to material, though it may be some distance from the desk, if it is in sight.

Mrs Porter of Enid recommends that all books of a class be shelved together—reference books on a subject to be placed with lending collection of that class, leaving only encyclopedias and very general works to be placed in a special reference alcove. The experiences of all who have conducted a library alone will cause them to agree that this is a wise arrangement. The dictionaries and cyclopedias of fine arts subjects should be shelved with 700's instead of in another room in the far corner of the building. If the library has only a dozen books on a foreign language, the dictionary of that language should be shelved with it, though a special room may have been built for dictionaries. There are examples of tiny libraries with half a dozen separate rooms, with solid wall partitions and one door well hidden from the charging desk. The appropriation may have been so small that these

<sup>1</sup>Mrs Thompson is chairman for Okla. of the Committee on libraries for the Southwest.

rooms are mere cubby-holes but their names are copied from those in the largest city book palaces with their acres of marble floors, spacious corridors and large staffs of specialists in charge of different departments. It cannot be repeated too often, and is true in any climate or geographic location, that a small public library should consist of one main room if it is to be manned by one woman.

Most of the territory covered by this report is in the region of light snow-fall. A flat roof, doubling the floor space at the cost of stairway and banisters, may be used for assembly room, story telling, or adult reading room during a large part of the year. The feasibility of this suggestion will depend on location of building and a number of other conditions, but the roof garden idea may be developed in Southwestern library buildings.

In localities where shallow excavation is possible or desirable, a four-foot excavation and six-foot elevation above grade for the main floor will give basement space for assembly room, heating plant and toilets. Several successful and satisfactory Oklahoma libraries have been developed on this general plan.

If club rooms or other auditorium facilities are to be provided, it is better to locate them below rather than above the main room as the sound is less disturbing.

The library proper should be near the ground level, only a few steps up at most with a broad entrance.

The library should be the center of all the cultural activities of the community. By means of recitals, plays, lectures, story hours and art exhibits, it may promote intellectual development, but none of these uses should destroy its function as a quiet place for reading and study during the hours set apart for that purpose. It is, first of all, a book house, and all other purposes should be subservient to that of bringing books and people together in surroundings conducive to study or recreational reading. The library is said to be the only antidote to Americanitis, and that phase of its usefulness must be safe-guarded.

For 50 years we have been growing away from the conception of the library as a monumental mausoleum for the stor-

age of books, but the idea persists when building committees and architects meet to design a library building. Incidentally it may be remarked that some current fiction, with freakish characters in charge of libraries, is helping to keep alive the impression that the custodian of books is queer. There are many types, from Carol Kennicott and the Main Street librarian to the wife of the Rosegarden husband, but the authors depict them as "the people, ah, the people, they that work in the library, they are neither man nor woman; they are neither brute nor human; they are librarians."

A future novelist may show up the librarian as a livable, lovable creature with very human faults and virtues, but consecrated to her task of keeping the lights burning, ready to pass the torch to all who come, and her temple will be a simple, usable building, perchance a bungalow replica of A. L. A. camp libraries. The shell may be as varied as the styles of architecture yet evolved—classic Colonial, Spanish Mission, or Oriental, open-court patio, but like David Grayson's axe handle, it will be a work of art if it serves the purpose.

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The National League of women voters, some time ago, offered a prize for the best \$50 reference library for women voters. (*P. L.* 29:36.) Many lists were submitted. The first prize was won by Miss Agnes Doherty, a teacher in Central high school, St. Paul, Minn., and a member of the Board of trustees of the N. E. A. Miss Doherty's list made extensive use of government publications. The second prize went to Mrs Gertrude Gilbert Drury, instructor in the St. Louis library school. The third and fourth prizes were won by women in Nebraska and New Jersey.

Mrs Drury's list of books will be printed for distribution by the National league of women voters.

The use of books in studying political questions is increasing among both men and women. The library that has these books ready on call is sure to be appreciated by the earnest student.

## In the Letter Box

### Message from A. L. A. President

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The A. L. A. has never undertaken a more important piece of work than that being done this year by the Temporary Library Training board. The appointment of this board was authorized by the A. L. A. council at Hot Springs, Ark., in April, 1923. The board was instructed to investigate the field of library training, to formulate standards, to devise a plan for accrediting training agencies, and to report to the council. The Temporary Training board has worked vigorously thruout the year and will present its final report to the A. L. A. council at Saratoga Springs on the evening of June 30, 1924.

Discussion and voting at this session will be limited to council members but the meeting will be open to all members of the profession and a large attendance is hoped for.

I am sure we are all agreed that no single feature of library service is so important as well-equipped librarians.

If the recommendations in this report are adopted by the council and we can all support them as we did the Library War service, waiving our individual opinions, I believe we may confidently look forward to better libraries and better library service in the coming years.

J. T. JENNINGS  
President

### A Worthy Appeal

Dear PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Once upon a time there was a superintendent who was planning a sanatorium for the tubercular. It was to be a state institution and was to be constructed in a section of country where there were sure to be boards and committees and legislatures who had little interest in or knowledge of libraries. But this man was determined to have a place in his institution set apart for books and library usage and in making his plans he included such a room. He had it centrally

located and the shelving and other details were not overlooked. "Believe it or not," he succeeded in carrying thru this plan and when the institution opened, there was this lovely place all ready for books and a librarian.

But as the years have gone on, "times" have grown harder and harder in this particular state—more so than in others—and there is no money for books. A lovely room, but no library. Everybody so hard up that there is no response to appeals within the state.

This letter is written in the hope that PUBLIC LIBRARIES will think it a good idea to have each one of its subscribers send a book or two to this place. Or more. The more, the merrier, of course, and the duplicates could be sold probably in such a bookless land, and so a fund obtained to help round out the donations.

Personally, I am extremely interested in this place. It is at Custer, S. D., and is named the South Dakota State sanatorium for tuberculosis. The superintendent is Dr R. E. Woodworth. I shall never forget my feelings as I realized that at last I had met a superintendent who believed so heartily in us and our work and in the value of books in a hospital that he insisted on providing adequate location and facilities for library service at the very beginning of his work.

Miss Eleanor Olney, who was at one time the A. L. A. representative in that part of South Dakota and who made a great effort to bring the patients of this sanatorium within the radius of the war activities of the A. L. A., writes as follows about this matter:

I think it is a most pathetic situation, the people stranded there so far from civilization and nothing but books to relieve the loneliness. Of course I am not responsible for the situation now but, having been once, I simply cannot throw off the longing to help when I know the need is so great.

I feel the same way myself. I mean to make up a small bundle of books immediately and mail it to Dr R. E. Woodworth, State sanatorium for tuberculosis, Custer, S. D.



If a number of others did the same there would soon be some fresh books for the patients there. It is a satisfaction to know that they will be received with gratitude and used with intelligence.

MIRIAM E. CAREY, Supervisor  
Institution libraries  
St. Paul, Minn.

### Another Impostor

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

It has been reported to us that a man calling himself Charles Bolton, claiming to have been an assistant in the Newark public library, has victimized several librarians. The man is an impostor, and I would like to warn all librarians against him.

### The World at Everyone's Door

I am the great entity which gave to you life itself. I enable you to live.

I have nearly all power. I possess nearly all riches.

I contain the total wisdom of humanity. I know everything and I am acquainted with everyone.

I govern the ocean upon which you travel. I control the air which you breathe.

I am your master and my discipline is severe. I never permit, that you dispute my will.

If you try to evade my laws, I certainly will punish you.

In spite of my severity, I am sympathetic, for I always desire, that every generation of men progress as much as possible.

I am glad that the present civilization offers to you many useful inventions. I desire that you find success and happiness.

I am your master, but I am, at the same time, your very humble servant.

I could teach you about many things that would help you, for I possess every secret of Nature.

But I am jealous about my knowledge. I prefer that you always work

I think librarians generally might adopt a rule of not crediting any "hard luck" story in which the applicant for relief claims to be a friend or an employee of any library.

BEATRICE WINSER  
Public library  
Newark, N. J.

### Barrel Day

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Librarians will probably be interested in reading an article in the May *Atlantic Monthly*, in the Contributor's club, written by Rev Lloyd C. Douglas of Akron. The subject was suggested to him by the experiment tried in the Public library, Akron, Ohio.

MAUDE HERNDON  
Librarian

### La Mondo Apud La Pordo Di Omna

Me esas la grand ento qua donis a vu la vivo ipsa. Me povigas vu vivar.

Me havas preske omna poveso. Me posedas preske omna richaji.

Me kontenas la tota sajeso dil homaro. Me savas omno e me konocas omna.

Me guvernas l'oceano sur qua vu voyajas. Me kontrolas l'aero quan vu respiras.

Me esas vua mastro e mea diciplino esas severa. Me nultempe permissas, ke vu disputez mea volo.

Se vu penas evitar mea legi, me certe punisos vu.

Malgre mea severeso, me esas simpatioza, nam me sempre deziras, ke omna generaciono di homi progesez tam multe kam posible.

Me joyas, ke la prezenta civilizeso ofras a vu multa util inventuri. Me deziras, ke vu trovez suceso e feliceso.

Me esas vua mastro, ma me esas, samtempe, vua tre humila servanto.

Me povus docar vu pri multa kozi qui helpus vu, nam me posedas omna sekreti di la Naturo.

Ma me esas jaluza pri mea savado. Me preferas, ke vu sempre laborez por

to discover anything whatever. You then will prize it so much the more.

I have given to you many and diverse means to obtain useful knowledge of every kind.

I have established for you schools, colleges, universities, libraries, associations, societies, clubs, etc.

Even if you are isolated in the desert, you can become interrelated with others who interest themselves about the same subject which you wish to study.

I could tell you of many persons who would be glad to inter-communicate with you about any kind whatever of useful knowledge, either in your mother country or in other lands.

I could help you to learn foreign languages.

I could teach to you a common language for all humanity.

I could find for you many good friends, near or far.

I am sympathetic, but my discipline is severe. I will not willingly accept any excuses whatever if you do not prepare yourself for the war of life.

When you shall have finished the strife, either as a conqueror or as one conquered, and shall have returned to your home, I will be wholly ready, like a mother, to receive you,

**FOR I AM THE EARTH ITSELF.**

(Written originally in Ido, by Eugene F. McPike, 5418 Woodlawn avenue, Chicago, Illinois.)

deskovrar irgo. Vu lor prizos ol tante plue.

Me donis a vu multa e diversa moyeni por obtenar utila savado di omna speco.

Me establis por vu skoli, kolegii, universitati, biblioteki, asociuri, societi, klubi, e c.

Mem se vu esas izolita en la dezerto, vu povas inter-relateskar kun altri qui interesas su pri la sama temo quan vu volas studiar.

Me povus informar vu pri multa personi qui joyus inter-komunikar kun vu pri irga speco di utila savado, sive en vua matralla lando, sive en altra landi.

Me povus helpar vu lernar stranjera lingui.

Me povus docar a vu komuna linguo por la tota homaro.

Me povus trovar por vu multa bon amiki, proxima o fora.

Me esas simpatioza, ma mea disciplino esas severa. Me ne volunte aceptos irga exkuzi se vu ne preparez vu por la milito di la vivo.

Kande vu finabos la batalio, sive kom vinkinto, sive kom vikito, e retrovenabos a vua hemo, me esos tote pronta, quale matro, por aceptar vu,

**NAM ME ESAS LA TERO IPSA.**

(Skribita originale en Ido, da Eugene F. McPike, 5418 Woodlawn avenue, Chicago, Illinois.)

### An Interesting Development

That "the library can render its most important contribution to the education of American citizens in the field of self-education" was the outstanding statement made by Carl H. Milam, executive secretary of the A. L. A., at the Home Education conference held at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, May 7. Education that is not synonymous with schools or with teaching, but is identical with the work done by the individual, gives each library an opportunity to do great service in advice and suggestion. Many libraries have already been of much

help in work with the foreign-born, thru distribution of foreign language circulars, books designated as suitable for the newcomer, and in making the library a community center; but there is likewise a need for help with our own citizens. Boys and girls, men and women—any persons out of school—are the ones for whom such help is specifically designed, and the presence in the library of a group qualified to follow up individual needs, to suggest, to direct, and to make personal contacts, will keep many a person aware of the world in which he lives.

M. E. Ahern, Editor

Subscription - - - - -	\$3 a year	Current single number - - - -	35 cents
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Contributions for current numbers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

### A. L. A. at Saratoga Springs

The convention days are fast approaching and as the time draws nearer one's interest and enthusiasm are decidedly on the increase! The May *Bulletin* of A. L. A. will carry definite information as to what will be offered and the plans of each day.

It is reported that the speeches are to be short, that they are to be few and those by persons who know their subjects, their audiences, and who will

talk to the point and stop when they reach it.

Pleasant arrangements for getting acquainted are under formation. There will be ample space for piazza conferences and no crowding in living accommodations.

An immediate adjournment will be asked for if the brass band essays a serenade. And the water is fine!

Let's go!

### The Value of an A. L. A. Conference

THE meeting of librarians, trustees, teachers and other users of print that is to take place at Saratoga Springs, ought to mark a white milestone in the experiences of the year 1924. If, as may be confidently expected, there is an attendance of from 1200 to 1800 persons at the meeting, there will be that many avenues of approach to the problem of how to make two books serviceably read where one was read before; of the ever-increasingly important question of making people take advantage of the special information to be found in the world of print which they need in the business that is engaging their attention; of the opportunity for enlarging their knowledge of the current questions of the day and

which touch the lives and fortune of everybody whether they know it or not. There will be also the chance to refresh or rekindle the inspiration so necessary if life is not to be a dull, drab existence instead of the joyous, hopeful and helpful venture it was meant to be.

There is some discussion as to whether or not the time has come to have the general meeting of the A. L. A. occur every other year, biennially instead of annually. There is something to be said on both sides of the question. But there is only one side of the question as to why have an A. L. A. at all. In union there is strength, specially of purpose, of vision, of accretion of knowledge and in accumulation of results. All this, of course,

presupposes the right attitude toward one's attendance and the ideas which are brought into the meetings by those who attend.

The aggregate cost of an A. L. A. meeting is enormous. It is safe to say that the average expenditure made on account of it in recent years has been near \$200,000, more or less. This sum demands, in justice, a return in value received. Most libraries send one or more

representatives of the institution at the library's expense. Here is a chance to waste the substance of the taxpayer in unprofitable activity. It is as well an opportunity for such a valuable investment for the permanent advantage of the library as cannot be secured in any other way. It holds this advantage for every library.

These are some of the reflections incident to the A. L. A. meeting that is coming in sight for all libraries in June.

### Interesting If True

THE public press reports that in a discussion of what young people read, at the recent library institute in Boston at Simmons college, Prof Robert M. Gay made the statement that the young people of today read little but modern popular fiction. He put the ratio of fiction to serious reading as about 40 to 2.

One who is in the midst of the stream of young people's reading, from libraries at least, questions the accuracy of a statement of this kind. That it is undoubtedly true in some localities cannot be denied but that it is not true on the average is beyond question. In libraries where there is no one especially equipped and appointed to oversee and advise about reading for children and young people, it doubtless may happen that an over supply of fiction is taken out. But in most well regulated libraries, the records show that a very creditable portion of books on travel, biography, mechanics, description and other subjects more or less related to work in the public schools or brought into prominence by some other means, forms the bulk of the charging records of the library.

One is a little surprised to have a statement of that kind come from Boston and must, because of tradition, question the basis of the facts for such a statement. However, at the same meeting, Miss

Florence Overton, supervisor of branch libraries in New York City, maintained that the situation with regard to young people's reading is probably as largely misunderstood now as it was in the days when the works of Scott, Cooper, Dickens and others were having their first run as popular fiction. Reading from the report of the librarian of the Astor library, New York City, 1854, Miss Overton quoted the following:

The young fry of today employ all the hours they are not in school in reading trashy current fiction, such as Scott, Cooper, Dickens. *Punch* and the *Illustrated News*.

Additional evidence was presented by Charles R. Green, librarian of the Jones library, Amherst, who presented most satisfactory figures as to circulation from that library among the little hill towns, village schools and churches near by, in which the most satisfactory circulation of good books is maintained. Certainly what is true in that particular region can be verified in thousands of villages and hamlets all over the country. No one may say, whatever Prof Gay may complain of in the spirit and activity of young people of the present, that their informative reading, particularly from public libraries, "is almost a negligible quantity."

### Are Comparisons Odious?

**A**N interesting library document that is more than a report is received from the Public library, Grand Rapids, Mich., "for the year ending, March 31, 1924." While data and statistics show that the library continues to extend its work, with excellent results, the financial problem has its deterring effect there as in many other places.

The thing which is notable about the report, however, is the exposition of the situation concerning the cost of library extension, as given by the librarian. A striking comparison used and one that is somewhat unfamiliar in the use that is made of it has much to recommend it for consideration by those whose duty it is to devise appropriations for public libraries generally. In making comparisons between appropriations for colleges and universities and those made for public libraries, there is much "food for thought."

A further comparison that might be made is in relation to the provision for staff, service and appropriations for public schools and the same things for public libraries in the same community.

It is a matter of much gratification to libraries generally to find school authorities, principals and teachers awakening to the valuable assistance that is rendered them in their educational work by a good public library. For many years, it was necessary to defend the legend which, from the beginning, PUBLIC LIBRARIES has had nailed to its masthead, "The public library is an integral part of public education."

For a long time, school people generally were indifferent to, if they did not scoff at, the notion of the public library being an integral part of the system of public education. It is not necessary to refer to

the change that has taken place in regard to that. It has come about that the schools no longer hold aloof from the proffered educational help of the library, rather there is danger of their absorbing the attention and material of the library, sometimes to the detriment of the work for the adult population that is so valuable a part of the public library's activity.

In Grand Rapids today, owing to unusual conditions, most of the branches of the public library are housed in public school buildings. With many libraries, however, there is a very justifiable feeling that unless great care and much tact are exercised this will be a handicap to general library work rather than a helpful thing. Instances might be multiplied where overwhelming entrance of pupils, dismissed from high schools and upper grades, has fairly swamped the reading and reference rooms of the library situated in a school building, where more than once the defeated adult has been seen to take himself off, helpless in the face of such a tide to reach the goal he sought. And the adult who most needs the library does not go to it when it is housed in the public school building.

Mr Ranck's reference (*see p. 296*) to the comparative number of people reached by universities and colleges and by the library will bear further comparison in the schools of any town. The size of the staff that is thought necessary for a school of one, two or three thousand pupils will readily occur to anyone who has had either experience or observation. The amount of money that is thought necessary for maintenance, equipment and staff, etc., of the public schools compared to that which is sometimes begrudgingly given the library shows the unequal consideration given the two educational institutions. But the li-



brary is supposed not only to furnish library service for the enrollment of the public schools but, in addition, supply library service to the larger adult population, oftentimes as difficult and frequently more diverse in its wants.

A proper division of funds for maintenance, equipment and staff for the li-

brary as a valuable institution of a town or city ought and some day will be faced by public authorities and a more equitable and satisfactory arrangement be made than exists at present. In the meantime, a wide reading of the extract from the report of the Grand Rapids public library may be of benefit to all concerned.

### Sources of Information

**I**N a recent circular sent out by Harvard university, the progress of laboratory research is emphasized as being the most important activity of the times. The great advance made in the science of chemistry alone in the past 50 years is called astounding. President Lowell is quoted as saying: Chemistry is a fundamental science upon which many of the activities of modern civilization depend. This is particularly true in the field of medicine.

The circular referred to follows the development of science in its various relations, laying great stress, very properly, on the research work of the laboratories. In all of this, however, there is one omission which may of right claim a place in a discussion of this kind, and that is the service rendered in the wonderful development by the world of print, and so a few ideas are presented here on that line.

It is conceivable that, had the results achieved in human activity, period after period, not been safeguarded in print, in books and pamphlets which many times have been less than a monetary success to their publishers; in libraries where, organized in groups in a way that made their contents readily and adequately available, they have met the needs of those to whom they appealed thru the intelligent service of their custodians, much of the acceleration which

the laboratory results have achieved would have been denied the workers thru the absence of authoritative formulas from which to select bases.

The great seats of learning too many times seem to be unaware of the valuable asset they possess in the various fields of study, in the collection of books which present a historical basis for the activities of every line of human thought and endeavor. The one who achieves very often owes much to the affirmation of his theory or the confirmation of his decision which comes to him thru the organized library service at his command. But too many times the laboratory receives all the credit for the accomplishment, as the relative interest expressed by equipment and means of support of the two departments in many institutions of learning will testify.

The late Dr W. R. Harper of the University of Chicago came to believe, and gave testimony to this belief several times in the last years of his life, that the library of a university may well be called the aorta of the institution in its educational efforts.

The world of print in the body of its producers and purveyors moves side by side with the efforts of science and learning in every field of human activity and its value in every line is in direct proportion to the recognition its service receives.

### ✓ Biggest Single Business in the World

A very interesting leaflet, *The biggest single business in the world*, has been sent out by the U.S. postoffice department, Washington. It contains much information that is of interest to the general public as well as definite information valuable oftentimes for ready reference to the business man.

The object of the circular is to familiarize the public with the extent of the postal service, and what it is prepared to do for the public. Enlightening information is given as to the magnitude of the work done, and undoubtedly it will have an effect which will be desirable if it does nothing more than to make the public intelligent as to the character of the service that is rendered, making it plain that what is accomplished is sufficiently great and important to make an occasional slip entirely excusable.

A map in black and white, used in the leaflet, would make good material for library bulletin boards since it furnishes in a very graphic form an immediate answer to the oft repeated question, "How much does it take to send a letter to —?"

In reply to an inquiry as to whether the circular could be obtained from the Post-office department, word comes that it will be possible to obtain copies free of charge "as long as they are available."

### The Library of the Pension Bureau

A note concerning the reference library in the Bureau of pensions is interesting. This library furnishes information with which to test the validity of applications for pensions and question of identity before they can be favorably considered.

The library has 2825 reference books, 500 pamphlets and more than 1000 historical sketches compiled in the library. There are many incomplete sets of state reports, rosters and histories of military divisions. It is believed the records of the Bureau of Pensions library now contain more valuable and interesting war history than can be found in any other place and it is hoped by those in charge that Congress will soon recognize the need

of making some provision for the preservation, classification and indexing of this valuable historical information. All books now in the library have come as donations. There is very meagre appropriation for carrying on the work.

### A Reasonable Pride

Reports from a number of libraries, particularly in the Northwest, show especial reading up by Norwegian users in the matter of celebrating Norway's birthday, May 17. It was on that date, in 1914, that the Norwegian people adopted their remarkably liberal constitution, following the separation from Sweden in 1905.

The Public library, Minneapolis, Minn., made a special effort to meet the interests of its Norwegian readers, of which it has a great many and for whom it maintains a fine collection of books in the Norwegian language. These are from famous Norwegian authors and cover poetry, legends, history and fiction, with the best Norwegian magazines and newspapers on the reading tables. Special recommendation was made of Dr Gjer-set's *History of the Norwegian people* and Du Chaillu's *Viking age*.

A striking statement in the account of the preparation of the library, in *Community Bookshelf* for May, is as follows:

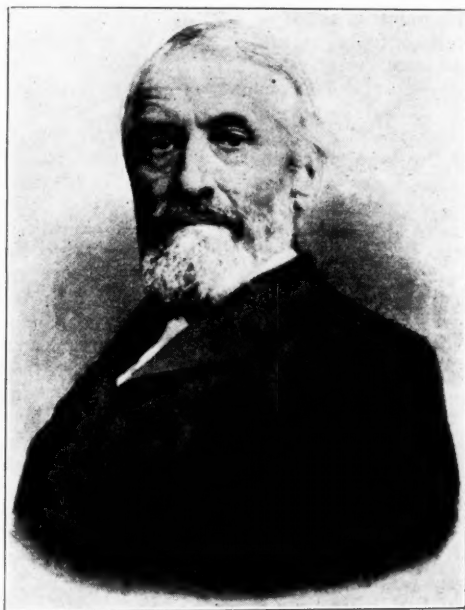
Norway has every cause to be proud of the six international geniuses which she has produced within the span of a lifetime. This little country, with a population about equal to the population of Minnesota, has produced Ibsen, Bjornson, Grieg, Nansen, Hamsun and Bojer. It is doubtful if any other country in the world would, covering the same period, equal these half dozen world figures. These are authors whose acquaintance is well worth making by Americans as much as Norwegians.

It is not so much the infirmity that causes unhappiness as the grief of a useless, dependent existence. The human being who does not use his limbs or his functions is less than human; the man who lacks an arm or his eyes, but who makes the best of his incomplete self, rises to the highest moral stature of our race.—*Helen Keller*.

### As It Was in the Beginning

Dr Spofford was born at Gilmanton, N. H., in 1825. His early education was under the direction of private tutors who prepared him for entering Amherst college but his delicate health prevented his doing so. At 19 years of age, he went to Cincinnati, where he remained for 15 years successively as bookseller, publisher and finally editor of the Cincinnati *Commercial*. While performing his duties in this latter position, he visited Washington, at which time he formed a connection with the Library of Congress, that ended only with his life.

Dr Spofford. The time, of course, is that before the removal of the Library of Congress to the present building, when the rooms reserved for it in the Capitol have long since ceased to accommodate the overflowing accumulations, and the new structure is still to be. Books on the shelves near him, two, three and four deep, books on the chairs, books on the tables, books on the floor in heaps about him, so that by books he is cabined and confined, a book, or something relating to a book, always in his hand, his eyes constantly fixed upon it, hardly to be turned from the page, even when replying to



Ainsworth Rand Spofford, 1825-1908

The picture of the old book-lover among his books—the one that shows him in his library, standing on his ladder at the upper shelves, books all about him, a book or two between his legs, and a book underneath each arm, completely absorbed in the one that he holds in his hands before him—there, excepting as you do not see him sharing his books with others, is a picture, in spirit at least, of

some interrogatory—books were his passion, books were his life.

"It is a poor life that knows no enthusiasm," he would sometimes say. Serving in the old library for the four years commencing with 1861 as first assistant, and then for the following 33 years as the Librarian of Congress, relinquishing the position in 1897, because of advancing years, to serve in the new library for the

11 years succeeding as the chief assistant librarian, he lived and worked with the richness of life that came from the richness of his enthusiasm. The consequences that flowed from that enthusiasm were visible year after year in an increase of the library, which was more than eight-fold during his term as librarian. The other chief result of that enthusiasm is visible in the present library building for which with unbaflled spirit, often defeated but never discouraged, often cast-down but never dismayed, he labored for 15 years before Congress voted the funds. On that day in April, 1886, when the Senate favorably acted on the measure, Dr Spofford for a rare moment put aside the reserve which was habitually his, and going to the Senate chamber in response to a summons to join Senator Morrill and Senator Voorhees, who had just celebrated the passage of the bill by tossing kisses to each other, he completed the triumvirate that in season and out had worked for a new building, and the three with fine disdain of all official dignity gave vent to their joy and warmly embraced.

To turn to the picture of Dr Spofford at his desk, emerging from the piled-up books about him in the days when the library was still housed in the Capitol is to turn to another epoch. It, for librarians, is to turn to a habit of thought and mind, which has given place today to the machinery of cards, catalogs and schemes of classification, to the bibliographical apparatus and the innumerable guides, indexes and aids of all kinds that are known to the economy of modern librarianship. The use of the instrument in place of the encyclopedic individual has become inevitable. The printing press increasing hums to the advancing march of knowledge; her farthestmost boundaries are marked by a book (not to mention the books beyond those boundaries). The result necessarily follows—in the face of the amount of printing that is done today, it is impossible for the librarian of the later age, excepting in a limited way, to know his books as intimately as they were known by those of the elder school.

Dr Spofford was more than a representative of the elder type. The elder type was incarnate in him. He lived among his books; he moved among them as a living catalog; he had a sort of being in them and they in him. A prodigious worker, a prodigious reader, possessed with a memory equally prodigious, it came to be said of him that *he* was the Library of Congress.

One day, early in his term, Senator David B. Hill came to the library and asked for Blackstone's Commentaries. He was furnished with an edition, in three or four volumes, and retired to an alcove where, for an hour, he read in them diligently. Then, returning the books to an attendant, he remarked to Dr Spofford that he had not found a particular passage he was seeking. Presto! "Is that it, Senator?" and Dr Spofford, having rapidly run over the pages of the second volume, handed it to Senator Hill, indicating the precise words that the latter sought.

When a Washington physician was once looking into the subject of superstition in medicine and went to Dr Spofford, as Washington people who wanted guidance in books always did, he was furnished on the spot with a pencil memorandum, written from memory, of 11 works useful in his investigation, with references given in some instances to particular chapters. The same physician relates the incident that when General Lew Wallace<sup>1</sup> was writing *Ben Hur*, he asked for a book giving local color and atmosphere, and that when none was found in the Library of Congress furnishing precisely what he wanted, Dr Spofford told him of one in the Harvard College library that would have it, and named the particular room in which the book was to be found, the shelf on which it was kept, and even the number of the book in the row on the shelf.

Another of the innumerable anecdotes of Dr Spofford's memory tells of an occasion when, for him a most exceptional thing, he was on a brief holiday, far from all libraries, and volunteering to

<sup>1</sup>General Wallace himself told me the same story.—*Editor of P. L.*

correct proof for the book of a friend, on the Original portraits of Washington, he supplied to the author from his inner store of knowledge many details as to facts.

Doubtless among the stories told of his feats of memory the true anecdotes are augmented by the apocryphal. But, in all things, the apocryphal is apt to be a testimony to a central truth. Of the extraordinary range of Dr Spofford's memory and the extraordinary uses to which he could put it, there is no doubt. Yet to those who would say to him, as people will sometimes say to librarians, "You know everything," he would reply, with impatience, perhaps even with scorn, "I know but little, and that little imperfectly." With the same instance he would affirm that anybody could cultivate his memory as fully as he had cultivated his own. The explanation he gave was simple: "Its cornerstones are attention and association."

Frequently a writer for the newspapers would make him the subject of an article. Though he would be the first to discount all that was said of him, a paragraph may be reproduced here from an issue of the *New York Tribune*, in April, 1895, presenting a view in which he was widely held:

His remarkable memory is a subject for wonder and comment. He seems to have the 700,000 books which compose the library cataloged in his mind and remembers facts about the most insignificant volumes, when they were written, by whom and when they came into the library. A quotation he will place at once and can give the references on every subject without having resort to any catalog save that in his own mind. His knowledge is limitless, and with it he is generous and helpful, seemingly having an interest in the researches of each individual. Mr Spofford is a man of great nervous force and energy, of indefatigable industry and possessed of immense power of concentration. The force within him, indeed, seems too great for his slender frame.

Tho slender his frame, the quality of his enthusiasm, the quantity, too, overcame physical limitations. It gave him persistency and it gave him perseverance; vitalized his imagination as well as his memory, and was a store on which he could draw for needs of both body and mind. The staff of the library was small;

the resources were slender. But to delay doing until there should be ampler means for the task would be fatal. To make the most of what was at hand was the only wise course to pursue. And so, in adding to the library, if it could not be rounded out uniformly, universal hopes could still be entertained, while, more to the point, something at least might be achieved, the rest to wait for later fulfillment. So the same enthusiasm was applied by Dr Spofford to the checking and pricing of an auction catalog that was applied to everything else. The bids were not large—they could not be—but an extra five or ten cents might top the bid and procure the coveted book. The widow's cruse was hardly more unfailing than the small sum of money that Dr Spofford had for making purchases, not because the small sum was apt to be replenished, but because of the way he constantly nursed it and divided it, again and again, until a penny seemed to do the work of a pound, and an integer to be matched against infinity. An eye there must be for everything appropriate for a library of universal scope, but very especially there must be an eye for anything in the way of Americana. Many a specimen of the latter, some of them now among its choicest rarities, came to the library thru Dr Spofford's frugal and fruitful bidding.

An auction catalog, or one of a second-hand dealer, was always within Dr Spofford's reach. To check one, or even to write a letter, while attending to the wants of a reader, was only to do two things at the same time. Besides it was a good way, and a courteous way, of getting rid of bores. If you wish to read Dr Spofford's philosophy of the subject, consult his volume, *A Book for all readers* (look in the index under "Bores, how to treat").

In responding to every legitimate call, he was instant. His passion for service was not less than his passion for books and flowed from it. What he absorbed from them was not truly his own until he had passed it on. None of his New England clerical ancestry could have been more certain of his calling; none could have shown more fidelity to it. Like one



of his forebears who, suffering from a rebellious member (a little toe), went to the woodshed and, in scorn of all consequences, removed it with an axe, he, too, with a reckless disregard for health, comfort or self, did with all his might whatever his hand found to do, for, in his view, librarianship, above all things, was service.

In his *A Book for all readers*, Dr Spofford has these words:

Librarianship furnishes one of the widest fields for the eminent attainments. The librarian, more than any other person whatsoever, is brought into contact with those who are hungering and thirsting after knowledge. He should be able to satisfy those longings, to lead inquirers in the way they should go, and to be to all who seek his assistance a guide, philosopher and friend. Of all the pleasures which a generous mind is capable of enjoying, that of aiding and enlightening others is one of the finest and most delightful. To learn continually for one's self is a noble ambition, but to learn for the sake of communicating to others is a far nobler one. In fact, the librarian becomes most widely useful by effacing himself, as it were, in seeking to promote the intelligence of the community in which he lives. One of the best librarians in the country said that such were the privileges and opportunities of the profession, that one might well afford to live on bread and water for the sake of being a librarian, provided one had no family to support.

Whence came such an enthusiasm for the vocation of books? Perhaps it was a native endowment; perhaps he held, with other authority, that "a good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up to a life beyond life." It is possible that both reasons are true.

WILLIAM ADAMS SLADE

[There is much of interest which might be said of the character and characteristics of Dr Spofford, for which there is no room at this writing, but it must be that what is here given will be of such interest as will induce the younger generation of library workers to receive the inspiration and outlook furnished by this notable librarian. These are given with remarkable effect in an article in *The Independent* for November 19, 1908, presented by Dr Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, who was, and is today, Dr Spofford's successor.]

### Library Extension<sup>1</sup>

Our immediate problem of library extension is the erection of the West Side Branch Library building, the plans for which have been adopted by the Board. The next step is the financing of the project. We may encounter some difficulties in connection with this on account of the limitations in taxation, etc., but nevertheless, the matter should be pressed continuously until some satisfactory solution is found.

Let us remember in considering this matter that the progress of the community, its healthful, spiritual and intellectual growth, is best served by attacking and courageously solving all these problems that present themselves in connection with such growth, rather than by saying "no" or "can't" when they face us.

The public library in America has long been the country's leading agency for adult education. People who are not familiar with its work (and most people are not), when told of it, are amazed at the wide range of its activities, the number of persons reached and the vital part that the resources and services of the library play in the everyday life of the community. This is particularly true of the very considerable number of young men and young women who continue their education after leaving school or college thru the books and periodicals which they find in the public library, and it is especially true of the many young persons who never had the chance to go to college. Surveys which have been conducted in a number of cities with reference to the use of leisure time all show that reading occupies first place in all stages of life—childhood, youth, manhood and womanhood, and old age. In the Cleveland Foundation survey, theatre-going was second and games and sports third in the use of leisure. For the masses of our people, the public library must always supply a very great part of their worth-while reading.

<sup>1</sup>From the annual report of the librarian, Public library, Grand Rapids, Mich., for the year ending, March 31, 1924.

The industrial and financial history of this country is full of examples of great inventions, industries and enterprises that have been built up around ideas which young men with limited formal education in the schools found and developed thru the inspiration and knowledge they gained from the material they found on the shelves of public libraries. The work of Edison and Henry Ford are two of the most conspicuous examples of the important part which a Michigan public library played in the early development of their contributions to our modern civilization.

When we think of the large number of persons reached in this way and what the library service may and does mean in our modern life, the amount of money expended on public libraries for such educational work seems paltry, indeed, as compared with similar sums that are expended on our colleges and universities. The colleges and universities being old institutions as compared with the public library, have established themselves in the minds of people, so that the value of their contribution to our modern life is not doubted for a moment. The public library needs to be established in the minds of the people in a similar way.

During the past year, your librarian has made some study of the relative expenditures for college and universities and the libraries in a number of communities. The amount of money (in round numbers, \$122,000) that the Library board is asking the City commission to place in the tax budget this year for the operation of the Grand Rapids public library is almost identical with the amount of money raised on our last winter tax rolls from the citizens of Grand Rapids to pay for one year's operation of the University of Michigan. In counting the names from Grand Rapids in the last available catalog of the University of Michigan, there are less than 400 students, so that the amount that this community contributes directly for the students from this city at the university for the year is considerably over \$300 each.

There are nearly 35,000 registered card-holders in the Grand Rapids public

library, and the amount we are asking for the operation of the library to be placed in the budget this year is not \$3.50 for each registered card-holder. This takes no account of thousands of people who use the library who are not registered as borrowers. I am fully convinced that the splendid work of the University of Michigan and the other colleges and universities of the country is worth all its costs and more, but I am also convinced that the work of the library, which directly touches a hundred people where the university reaches but one, is no less important and that special efforts should be made to bring this fact home to the community, so that mass education as it functions thru the library may go forward in accordance with the needs of the millions.

The last session of the State legislature, in addition to the amount of money voted for the operation of the university, authorized for the expenditure on new buildings during the next two years \$3,800,000, as compared with \$4,800,000 in the last two years. If the distribution of this university building money to be paid in taxes by the people of Grand Rapids is the same as the distribution of the money paid by the people of this city for the operation of the university, the people of Grand Rapids will pay in taxes the next two years for new university buildings a little more than \$150,000 which the Library board is asking for the West Side Branch Library building; and in the two previous years the city's contribution in taxes for new university buildings was \$40,000 more than the Library board is asking in the next two years for the West Side Branch Library building: in other words, the people of this town, in four years, have paid and are paying taxes for new buildings at the university more money than it would require to build two buildings like the proposed West Side branch. When we remember that this proposed building will be used by hundreds of our citizens for every one from Grand Rapids who uses the university, and furthermore, when we remember that the library is the only chance for their continued edu-

cation which most of these people will have, and finally, when we remember that the people of this city directly in their taxes have never paid a dollar for the erection of a library building, I am sure that the Board's request for funds for this purpose must appeal to all intelligent people as a most modest one.

The educational work of the library is, of course, not of a formal nature, as is that of the university. Its method is freedom, but its influence and importance in the life of the people are nevertheless fully as great, for after all is said and done, to use words of Elizabeth Sander-son Haldane in an article on Adult education in the current number of the *Nineteenth Century and After*: "The first desideratum of any real education of an adult sort is books. Without reading and a satisfactory access to the storehouse of the world's wisdom, little can be accomplished."

My plea in this whole discussion is not that the university should receive one penny less, but that this home-loving city should recognize its responsibility and do its full duty for the tens of thousands who will never have the opportunity to enjoy the advantages that the university offers.

The throbbing life of this community in all its old and new and expanding forms—physical, social, intellectual and spiritual—always registers at the library, and gives variety and purpose to our work. When we think of the library and its service in terms of these human elements we cannot fail to realize that it is tremendously worth-while.

#### Decimal Classification

##### Corrections and additions

A 32-page pamphlet showing changes included in ed. 10-11 of the Decimal classification will be mailed free to owners who send to Forest Press, Lake Placid Club, Essex County, N. Y., a postcard saying: "Send D C corrections to (address)." To owners of ed. 11, which contains all the changes, the pamphlet will be of no value.

DORCAS FELLOWS  
Editor

#### Fifty Years of Service

On May 12, the Public library, Galesburg, Ill., celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Open house was kept all day. Books were exchanged but the usual rules were suspended, conversation was permitted, and no fines were charged on any overdue books, regardless of how long they were kept out.

The building was beautifully decorated by the local florists with ferns and palms, and quantities of cut flowers came from many friends of the library. A number of beautiful foreign posters, the gift of the American agency of foreign railways, were on display, as was also a collection of reproductions of old wood engravings of Strasbourg in 1744. One of the music shops of the city lent an Edison phonograph which furnished music throughout the day. Over the main entrance to the building was a large poster representing an open book, on one page of which were the words, Galesburg Public Library, and on the opposite, Fifty Years of Service. A special light furnished by the Illinois Power and Light Corporation, was thrown on this at night.

The building was thronged with visitors during the day and evening and numerous telegrams and letters of congratulation were received.

In the evening, after the library had closed, the directors were hosts to a company made up of former members of the Board and staff, city officials and aldermen, members of the Board of education, representatives from the schools and colleges and the clergy of the city. A short program of talks and music was given and refreshments served.

#### A Library Celebration

The addition of a gift collection of 4500 volumes and the installation of new shelving in the Public library, Little Rock, Ark., was made the occasion of "Visit your library day," April 8. Circulation was suspended and the day was set aside for inspection of the library by the public. Crowds filled the building during the entire receiving period. Souvenirs of the occasion, copies of Over-ton's American night's entertainment and

of the Halderman-Julius classics, were given to the visitors by local booksellers who had booths at the library. A good orchestra and punch were added attractions.

Interesting exhibits were on display—rare and choice volumes from the Rose collection; old and interesting books on early Arkansas; illustrated editions of juvenile classics, and a collection of portraits and miniatures by a New York artist, a native of Arkansas.

The local newspapers coöperated most generously in bringing the occasion before the public, carrying feature articles on books and reading and commenting editorially on the event. Increased interest in the library and its activities will undoubtedly result from "Visit your library day."

BEATRICE PRALL, Librarian

### The Place of the Library

"What is the library doing in a health exhibit?" This was asked so many times at the exhibit in Minneapolis that the answer is given here.

In the first place, the Public library ministers to the sick in the hospitals by sending books and a librarian to the bedside.

It has books for the sick who are not in the hospitals but who wish to read on their own ailments. It also offers sane reading to all who wish to learn preventive measures. It circulates professional literature to public health agencies, hospitals and nurses.

It offers abundant reading on all the health-giving recreations. It stimulates interest in good literature, remembering always Dr Crothers' advice on the therapeutic value of books.

To exhibit these resources available to searchers of health, the library had in its booth a book truck which is used in the hospital library service, 15 lists compiled for Health week, posters with telling statements and, of course, books suitable for such an exhibit.

A.

The best time to hold on is when you reach the point where the average fellow would fall off.

### A First Step in Legislative Reference

Most librarians have occasion now and then to trace the progress of state or national legislation. Those who do this only occasionally, but who have access to documental depositories or other collections of documents, will find the following outline useful. It has been used for several years in classes in political science conducted at the University of Minnesota.

#### Directions for tracing bill thru Congress with examples

*First:* Look in *Statutes at Large of U. S.* (2 v. for each Congress) in volume devoted to public laws for act of Congress not an appropriation bill, a bill for bridge, post office, pension or tariff.

*Example:* In *Statutes at Large*, 62nd Congress, 2nd Session, 1912.

Ch. 75. An act to provide for a tax upon white phosphorus matches and for other purposes—April 9, 1912. H. R. 20842. Public No. 118.

*Second:* Take House and Senate Journals for session in question and look in index under number of bill (same as found at right of page in *Statutes at Large*).

*Example:* In above case for House of Representatives bill, No. 20842. Take down page numbers given with stage to which they refer.

*Third:* Look in index to *Congressional Record* for session in question and take down page references which give stages and debate on bill.

(Note: *Senate Journal* and *Congressional Record* cover passage of bill thru Senate; *House Journal* and *Congressional Record*, passage thru House.)

To get full passage, your index will look about as follows:

H. R. 20842—A bill, etc.	C. R. H. J. S. J.
Mr Hughes of New Jersey:	
Committee on ways and means	2489 364 ...
Reported back (Rept. 406)	3148 423 ...
Debated	3965-3978 ...
Amended and passed House	3979 501 ...
Received in Senate	... 240
Read two times	... 241
Referred to Senate committee	
on finance	4077 ... 241
Reported back (Rept. 541)	4151 ... 247
Debated	4234-41 ...
Read third time	... 251
Passed Senate	4241 525 251
Examined and signed (in House)	4317 532 ...
Examined and signed (in Senate)	4321 ... 257
Presented to President	4363 536 ...
Approved	4679 558 269

*Fourth:* Look up above references. Compare account in *Journals* with those in *Record* and do not duplicate work where identical accounts are given. See *Journals* to get exact steps followed in procedure. Summarize main arguments in debate as given in *Record*, disregarding minor discussions not pertinent to subject of bill.

Look up *Committee report* cited in index (H. Rept. 406, S. Rept. 541) and insert at point indicated in index. To find *com. rept.*, look in Document index for session in question under *House* (or *Senate*) *reports*; get volume of serial number; then look in that volume.

Example: *H. rept.* 406 is in *House Repts.* v. 2; serial No. 6130.

Summarize main arguments in report.

FRANK K. WALTER  
University of Minnesota

### Library Viewed As Act of Faith

Birmingham takes its place with the most progressive cities of the country. On Tuesday, May 13, we voted two to one for a new Central library building. This was a complete reversal of the balloting of two years ago when we lost two to one.

A most strenuous campaign for the past three months, first with almost unmountable difficulties followed by continual hard work, effected a general change in the tide up to the date of election, and then a complete victory.

Today we are about to issue and sell \$650,000 of bonds, choose a good site, and an architect, and erect a maximum of building.

LLOYD W. JOSSELYN  
Public library, Birmingham, Ala.

### For Free Distribution

The New York state library has a large accumulation of duplicate documents of practically all the states, of many cities and of foreign countries, as well as city directories and annual reports of unofficial bodies, which it is desirous of sending to interested libraries willing to meet the cost of packing and transportation. Anyone wishing to do so may come to the library with lists to check, though the library itself cannot undertake such sorting.

Visitors who are able to stop at the New York state library on their way to or from the A. L. A. conference at Sara-

toga Springs, June 29-July 5, will be especially welcome.

The Yale University library has a stock of the following publications which will be sent gratuitously to any library applying:

*American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Papers*, v. 5, 1886-1890, Boston, 1892.

David Hobart Carnahan, Ph.D., *The Prologue in the Old French and Provençal mystery*, Yale thesis, New Haven, 1905.

A revised List of material on geography obtained free or at small cost has been issued and may be obtained free of charge by librarians and teachers on application to Mary J. Booth, Eastern Illinois State teachers' college, Charleston, Ill.

We all know that great strides have been made by the United States in the development of scientific investigation: new fields have been exploited and new light has been thrown upon old fields. This progress has been the result of intensive effort. All this is good and has added lustre to American science and scholarship. But with the rapid extension of scientific investigation there can and does inevitably come about a considerable amount of duplication and overlapping of effort. This tends to lessen possible productive efficiency. To avoid this we must plan our undertakings coöperatively and provide for the correlation of research. The importance of this point of view is now generally realized and it is contributing a new stimulus to scientific achievement. Efforts of this kind call with increasing emphasis for the development of scientific and technical library service to aid in the task of correlation by organizing bibliographic information for prompt and effective use. There is a decided need at this time for extending and perfecting our bibliographic technique in the field of scientific research and future successes will depend increasingly upon the fulfillment of this need.—*Vernon Kellogg.*



### American Library Association Saratoga meeting

President Jennings has sent out a special appeal to members of the A. L. A. council to be present at the council meeting to be held at Saratoga Springs, Monday evening, June 30. This session will be entirely devoted to discussion and action on the report of the Temporary Library Training board. Mr Jennings asks that a special effort to be present be made by every member of the council and that definite contributions be made to the discussion.

The Grand Union hotel will be headquarters at Saratoga Springs. The New Worden, the Hotel American, United States, and Saratoga Inn will also be available. All are close together. All requests for reservations should be addressed, A. L. A., care of Manager, Grand Union hotel, Saratoga Springs, N. Y., stating clearly choice as to hotel, kind of room, date of arrival and all other facts which will be of assistance in assigning quarters.

There will be an information desk on the main floor of the Grand Union hotel, at which members of the local committee will be in constant attendance during the hours when their services are needed. Certain easily accessible places in the Headquarters hotel will be designated as consultation places. Placards will be posted for the different associations, sections and groups to facilitate the getting together of those interested in particular subjects.

All persons attending the conference are requested to register at A. L. A. headquarters immediately upon arrival. A registration fee of one dollar is required.

The completion of the advance attendance register will depend upon the promptness with which names and addresses are sent to A. L. A. headquarters, Chicago.

All exhibits will be at the Headquarters hotel. Any communications concerning exhibits should be sent to the A. L. A. secretary, Chicago, giving all particulars as to space needed, etc.

A rate of one and one-half fare on the

identification certificate plan has been made for the conference by practically all railroads in the United States and from Canadian points east of British Columbia. Identification certificates are to be obtained from Secretary Carl H. Milam, 86 East Randolph Street, Chicago. This certificate should be presented to the local ticket agent, and a round-trip ticket to Saratoga Springs purchased at the special A. L. A. rate of one and one-half fare. The summer circle tours are available from Chicago and other places to Eastern resorts, costing only slightly more than the fare and one-half A. L. A. rate. (*For detailed information, see PUBLIC LIBRARIES for May.*)

The Western travel secretary, J. F. Phelan, urges an early registration of all who can go with the party, leaving the Michigan Central station, Chicago, at midnight, June 28. Monday will be spent at Niagara Falls, arriving at Saratoga in time for the first meeting. This travel experience, for the "first timers," is always a great delight and the getting acquainted is always pleasant.

Contributions to the fund for the restoration of Louvain University library are *slowly* coming in. Up to the present, only about \$1500 has been received.

A prospectus of the Paris library school (*Ecole de Bibliothécaires*) will appear in translation in the May number of the *A. L. A. Bulletin*. The May *Bulletin* will also contain new proposals for amendments to the constitution as well as those that are to be voted on for the second time at Saratoga.

The College and Reference section, under the new plan of organization, has registered over 200 members. It is hoped thru these dues to accumulate funds which will aid committee work and perhaps result in publication of some of the work of the section. Anyone engaged in college or reference work is invited to send name and first year's dues, 50 cents, to J. A. McMillen, Washington university, St. Louis, Mo.

The Executive council of the Southeastern library association will hold a special meeting at the conference at Sara-

toga. One representative from each member state is entitled to a vote in the council. All librarians from the Southeastern section at the conference are invited to attend this meeting.

CAROLINE P. ENGSTFELD  
Acting-chairman

The A. L. A. committee on the Eunice Rockwood Oberly memorial fund has issued a pamphlet which sets out the form and purpose of the fund, which is to be administered by the A. L. A.

As has been stated here before, the high esteem in which Miss Oberly was held by her fellow workers in library circles has produced a memorial fund of \$1000. The biennial income from this money is to be awarded to the compiler of the best original bibliography in the field of agriculture or the natural sciences. Competition for the prize is invited.

The following conditions are set out:

Contestants must be residents of the United States.

The bibliography must be accompanied by a statement showing the sources from which material was drawn, the libraries in which the compiler worked and the general aids and catalogs that were consulted, and any other sources of information used.

The pamphlet setting out the conditions of the prize also contains a short sketch of Miss Oberly's all too short life and an appraisal of the work she accomplished.

The post-conference trip following the Saratoga Springs meeting is now arranged as follows:

The party will leave Saratoga Springs, Saturday afternoon, making the first stop at Westport Inn on Lake Champlain, remaining there until Monday afternoon. Motors will then convey the party from Westport, by way of Keene Valley, Cascade lakes and Lake Placid, to Saranac Inn, on upper Saranac lake, where the party will make its headquarters until Thursday morning, July 10. Saranac Inn is one of the most attractive resort hotels in the Adirondacks. Trips by motor will be made to various points of interest in the neighborhood. On Thursday morning, after breakfast, the party will go thru one of the most delightful regions of the Adirondacks to Ausable chasm, by

way of Wilmington Notch and Ausable Forks, a 60 mile trip. The road thru Ausable chasm is full of pleasure and interest. On Friday morning, an early start will be made by steamer on Lake Champlain, passing later to a Lake George steamer, a wonderful trip of 40 miles on the "Queen of American lakes." In the late afternoon, connection will be made either at Saratoga Springs or Albany for thru trains in all directions.

Registration before June 15 with F. W. Faxon, 83 Francis Street, Boston 17, Mass., is requested. A deposit of \$5 should accompany the order. The price from Saratoga Springs to Albany is \$65. This covers room, meals, transportation, two motor trips and admission to Ausable chasm. Hand baggage is advised but steamer trunks will be taken at an extra charge of \$3. Nights in the mountains are cool and wraps are advisable.

Personal checks for the trip should be sent to Mr Faxon before June 25 or to A. L. A. headquarters at Saratoga Springs, July 1-3.

The committee regrets the necessity of changing the plan of making Lake Placid Club the headquarters, but it was necessary for comfort. The Democratic National Convention, at that time, is holding an Adirondacks excursion to Lake Placid and will use all the hotels in town, as well as every room at the club.

While the route of the post-conference trip has been changed, it is thought that the new plan will be equally delightful and the price of the trip, including 40 more miles of auto travel, is only \$5 more than the first trip planned.

By making close connection, the fare-and-one-half rate can be used. Otherwise, there may be obtained from local ticket agents summer excursion tickets to the convention, with further instructions.

A more extended notice will appear in the A. L. A. *Bulletin* for May.

#### Report on library revenues (condensed)

A very extensive questionnaire concerning library revenues has been sent by Samuel H. Ranck, chairman of the A. L. A. committee on library revenues. Some 40 questions, some of them with many sub-divisions, pretty generally cover

the situation and there will be much interest in the conclusions that may be drawn from the answers.

The Committee on library revenues, during the past year, has devoted most of its attention to the study of college and university, teachers' college and normal school libraries.

The great handicap in the study of this subject as it relates to college libraries is a lack of definite information about the condition and work of these libraries at the present time and, therefore, a somewhat elaborate questionnaire has been sent out to over 800 of these institutions. With the data which it is expected that this questionnaire will develop, the committee will have a fund of information which will enable it to make an intelligent recommendation to the Council on the whole matter later on.

The rapid development of elementary and high-school libraries in all parts of the country is one of the most significant movements in present day education. This movement is destined to have a tremendous influence on the whole library situation. After completing the study of the college library situation, it is proposed to go into the school situation with equal thoroughness.

The committee is happy to report that an increasing number of libraries have reached or passed the \$1 per capita of the population served, in accordance with the resolution, . . . "as a reasonable minimum revenue for the support of a public library."

In discussions of this \$1 per capita idea the committee regrets to notice that a number of librarians and others have not recognized the full recommendation as adopted by the association. Too often the emphasis on the work that the library is expected to do is placed entirely on circulation and all too little attention is given to the importance of the reference and reading room work of the institution. It will be recalled that the reference and reading room work of the libraries was especially stressed in the resolution as adopted by the A. L. A. council.

Practically all of the criticism of the \$1 per capita idea has been due to the

fact that the resolution in full has not been thoroughly comprehended.

The committee has learned of a number of libraries during the year that have a revenue of \$2 or more per capita, with a circulation of 10 or more per capita, besides emphasizing their reference and reading room work. This is simply an illustration of what might be expected with proper support.

It will be recalled that in the resolution adopted and as recommended by the committee in December, 1921, the belief was expressed that a good deal more than \$1 per capita was necessary to develop to the fullest extent the usefulness of the public library to all the people. The information in the hands of the committee, has 18 libraries which have a revenue, for the operation of the library, of \$1 per capita or more. Seven of the libraries in this state had a revenue last year of \$2 or more, five of \$3 or more, and one town of 1546 people had a library revenue of \$6 per capita. One of the libraries with a revenue of \$3 per capita was in a town of over 15,000 people.

The rapid progress and ultimate success of the library survey in charge of the Committee of Five on library service seems now to be assured by the financing of the committee by the Carnegie Corporation and the appointment of a salaried director who is to proceed at once with the formation of an office force to carry out the details.

Charles Seymour Thompson, for some years past librarian of the Public library, Savannah, Ga., has resigned this position especially to accept the directorship and will come to St. Louis next month to organize the work. Mr Thompson is a Yale graduate, '02, who began his library service a year after graduation and has filled important posts in the Brooklyn public library and the Public library of the District of Columbia, previous to accepting his present position. His administrative experience, and also that in several editorial positions he has held, will be of great value in the present instance.

The Board of directors of the St. Louis public library has placed at the disposal of the committee space for office work in one of the branch libraries.

### Atlantic City Meeting

The report of the Atlantic City meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association, May 2-3, has its usual ring of interest and pleasure. It was the twenty-eighth joint meeting of the organizations held at Hotel Chelsea. The time was divided between the two associations, both presenting interesting programs.

The Pennsylvania library club opened the meeting on Friday evening, President Clinton Rogers Woodruff presiding. The speaker of the evening was Director Edwin H. Anderson of the New York Public Library system, who emphasized the necessity for quality and extent in training for library service.

The company was much honored and pleased by the presence of Christopher Morley, who came by invitation to see the class of 1924 of Drexel Institute library school present his play, *On the shelf*. Dr Woodruff asked Mr Morley to make a few introductory remarks about his play, to which Mr Morley replied that a play which needed "a few introductory remarks" was not a good play. He had come to see the play, as had the rest of the audience, and he would not intrude his personality into the meeting.

That the play was charmingly presented was the opinion both of Mr Morley and the audience.

The session on Saturday morning was under the auspices of the New Jersey library association. The celebrated Welsh tenor, Evan Prosser, was the guest of the occasion and, at a tea given in the afternoon, sang several charming Welsh and English songs.

The speaker at the joint meeting on Saturday evening was Judge John M. Patterson, Philadelphia, a former president of the Dickens Fellowship. Judge Patterson's theme was "Dickens as I have found him." He gave a scholarly and interesting presentation of the life of Dickens and excellent reviews of many of his most popular works. An interesting and unusual idea was that which showed how the economic and political conditions in England during Dickens' writing period influenced his works.

The first session of the meeting of the New Jersey library association was devoted to business. Several important matters were decided. It was determined to have at least one member of the outgoing Executive board appointed each year to the incoming board in order to obtain continuity of association functioning. About 100 new members joined the association during the past year. A directory of members will soon be issued as a supplement of the *Bulletin* of the New Jersey library commission. Announcement was made of the offer of a prize of \$10, by Mrs A. R. Allen, Jersey City, for the best library song. A committee was appointed to consider means of making the association meetings more helpful to librarians of small libraries. An appeal for enlarged membership in the A. L. A. from New Jersey was made.

The following officers were elected: President, Adeline Pratt, Burlington county library; first vice-president, Clara Ormiston, Bernardsville public library; second vice-president, Mrs M. R. Whaley, Public library, Elizabeth, secretary, Bessie H. Newkirk, Public library, Camden; treasurer, Howard L. Hughes, Public library, Trenton.

The speaker at the first session was Hon John J. Murphy who gave a thoroughly enjoyable address on *The Irish literary revival*. In tracing the early Gaelic origins in the spoken word and the mythology which has been preserved, bringing the development down to the present revival of interest in Irish literature, Mr Murphy pointed out the remarkable growth and rebirth of the literature itself in recent years. The audience was delighted with his reading of selections from Joseph Campbell, Padraic Colum, James Stephens and others.

At the second session, a committee was appointed to investigate the advisability of establishing a scholarship fund to help those entitled to obtain library training in some selected school.

An address by Prof Henry Keiler, Jr., New Jersey agricultural experiment station, *Books in rural communities*, could apply equally well to urban populations. (See p. 277).

A paper by Howard L. Hughes, Trenton, presented Short cuts in library administration. His theme was expressed as "Efficiency within means time available for the larger outside activities of the library." Comment was made on the following: 1) fancy cataloging; 2) the accession record; 3) shelf-list; 4) borrowers' cards; 5) cooperative lists; 6) preparation of books, the elimination of book-plates from fiction, and greater use of the typewriter; 7) efficient routing of books in the process of preparation; 8) labor-saving devices; 9) non-cataloging of Government documents; 10) purchase of supplies, at least a year's supply at one time, saving time consumed in more frequent orders; 11) book purchases to be made in the same way, meaning a saving of time and labor; a year's supply of the ever-popular titles in replacements; 12) taking inventory of supplies in slack months; 13) study of catalogs of supply houses for suggestions and help.

A lively discussion followed Mr Hughes' paper.

Sarah B. Askew, New Jersey public library commission, in a clever and charming manner brought out many good points. "We build," she said, "monuments that are so often over dead things. A library school should teach what we can do without. We do not have to be missionaries, nor do we have to classify people at all, nor be what we are not."

Dhan Gopal Mukerji, Hindu author, at the third session, presented a distinctly fascinating address on Tagore's and Kipling's India. He explained the utter opposition of Eastern and Western civilization in that the former represents the reality of life in timelessness, whereas the latter represents it in time. India and America have been brought together by modern means of communication and the two nations were never spiritually prepared to meet. Kipling's Jungle stories are as popular in India as elsewhere, since he has reproduced and interpreted jungle life and won for his stories true universality. Mr Mukerji also gave some vivid descriptions of the jungle and jungle life as he had actually lived it in his youth. The speaker's one criticism of Kipling

was that he puts the mentality of the Englishman into the soul of the Indian.

Mr Mukerji recited in the Hindu language, showing its musical resonance. He referred his audience to Tagore's latest book as showing the beautiful religious beliefs of the Indian people. In conclusion, Mr Mukerji administered a polite rebuke to the American people:

The twentieth century industrialism of the West is wiping out the beauties of India and China at length. According to the older view, the individual surrenders himself to the universe, but the modern view demands that the individual control the universe. Americans give and give a great deal but they cannot give themselves nor a spiritual understanding. They are forever trying to improve God's earth! India is close to the spirit. America should have contact with India on the basis of spirit—not commerce merely.

Altogether the meeting was a most delightful occasion. The weather was beautiful, mild and clear and about 350 attended the sessions.

### Ontario Library Association

#### Report of annual meeting, 1924

The annual meeting of the Ontario library association, as usual, was held in the Public library, Toronto, April 21-22. The program centered about the topic, Canadian literature and Canadian problems and the relation of the library thereto.

The meeting opened on Monday afternoon, when the subject of Canadian literature was treated from four angles. J. E. Middleton, president of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Authors' association, discussed the subject, Our poets, from the standpoint of standards of criticism. He maintained that a true standard would deal with content as well as form. Mr Middleton regretted the superficial criticism which is much in vogue and made a plea for the kind of criticism that would really throw light on poetry discussed and lead to a better understanding of it by those who are not themselves poets.

E. J. Hathaway, a member of the Library board, Toronto, in discussing Our novelists, divided them according to the quality and character of their writings, pointing out historical novelists, deep-sea



writers, nature writers and other groups. He stressed particularly the novelists of Canada with relation to locality, naming the chief representatives, with the characteristics of their work, across the Dominion from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia.

Prof W. Stewart Wallace, librarian of the University of Toronto, discussed the outstanding writers in Canada in history and biography.

A most enjoyable and unusual number was that presented in a most intimate and delightful fashion by Lloyd Roberts, Ottawa, whose subject was Our nature writers. Mr Roberts is the son of Charles G. D. Roberts and a cousin of Bliss Carmen, and his point of observation, as well as his experience, amply fitted him for his subject.

At the Monday evening session, R. J. C. Stead, Ottawa, president of the Canadian Authors' association, himself a novelist and poet of distinction, presented a strong address on Canadian literature as a national asset. His plea was for Canada to consider this form of development as quite as valuable in the progress of the country as the material distinction which was steadily accruing in so many lines of development.

Canadian problems and the relation of the library thereto was treated by Eleanor Holmes, Public library, Picton, and Hon J. S. Martin, minister of agriculture for Ontario. Miss Holmes maintained that her topic, Town beautifying, was a problem to which the library had a very close relation. Having been very successful in beautifying her own library, Miss Holmes gave a thoroughly practical talk, really a recital of what is possible. Mr Martin discussed Rural life, pointing out its advantages and duties and making a plea for libraries to add their quota to the work of other organizations in making connection between life in the country and general world interests.

Miss McLeod, Public library, Hamilton, told the story of A library pilgrimage, chiefly among the libraries of the United States, noting most appreciatively the constant kindness and courtesy extended to her.

W. Briden, Public library, St. Catharines, chose for his presidential address, The schoolmaster in literature. He ranged thru British, American and Canadian literature and found many delightful spots where the schoolmaster figures as a hero, or otherwise.

On Tuesday afternoon, a round-table conference on children's work was held, under the supervision of Lillian H. Smith, head of the Boys' and Girls' division of the Public library, Toronto. W. J. Sykes, librarian, Carnegie library, Ottawa, gave some very trenchant discussions and mandates in book selection. W. O. Carson, inspector of public libraries, Toronto, spoke on Administration and the small library problem.

The meeting was well attended and the discussion showed considerable interest. An interesting phase of the meeting was the exhibits made by publishers and supply houses.

The Toronto public library acted as host for the occasion and the members of the staff were ready at all times to show the work of the various departments of the library to the visitors.

It was voted to hold a banquet in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization at the next annual meeting and to publish a historical volume containing an account of the work of the association and the growth of the library movement in Ontario.

The following officers will serve for the current year: President, G. W. Rudlen, Public library, Sault Ste. Marie; first vice-president, Fred Landon, University of Western Ontario, London; second vice-president, Lillian H. Smith, Public library, Toronto; secretary-treasurer, Dr E. A. Hardy, 124 Duplex Avenue, Toronto.

The true measure of the value of man's knowledge is the use to which it is put.

Emerson once defined the true scholar as the one who remains firm in his belief that a pop gun is only a pop gun although the ancient and honorable of earth solemnly affirm it to be the crack of doom.—*Selected*.

### Meeting at Pasadena, Cal.

The annual meeting of the California library association was held at Pasadena, April 28-30, with an attendance of 500. Jeannette M. Drake, Pasadena public library, president of the association, opened the meeting.

The secretary-treasurer's report of activities for the year showed a 20 per cent membership increase; the compilation and publishing of music bibliographies for small libraries; a comprehensive survey of library conditions in the hospitals of the state; the adoption of a standard, uniform system of lettering bound magazines, and the framing of a permissive law authorizing library boards to pay the expenses of their librarians attending library meetings, this to be submitted at the next legislature. The recommendation that the California library association hold a joint meeting with the Pacific Northwest library association in the territory of the latter, in 1927, was adopted. The Seamen's Institute committee reported a successful book drive, during which over 9000 volumes were collected for distribution to the Merchant Marine. A convention registration fee, payable by all members attending annual meetings, was adopted.

### Adult education

Ethel Richardson, assistant state superintendent of Public instruction in California, in an address entitled Adult education, called attention to the fact that Europe is experiencing a tremendous revival of learning in which the working classes are leaving their callings and turning their attention to fields of knowledge heretofore unexplored by the so-called lower classes of society. Adult education has become of primary importance and the future leadership of America in world affairs depends largely upon a similar stimulation of thought on the part of the people of this country. The Workers' Educational association offers opportunity for the workers to meet in groups under the instruction of college and university professors for the study of any subject they wish to pursue. These courses are not offered with a view of increasing the earning power of the work-

ers but are solely to increase their understanding of life. More than 100,000 British workers are enrolled in these adult education classes, which meet once a week for two-hour sessions. All manner of subjects are being studied. It costs nothing to enroll and the books are supplied from a central library in London.

Miss Richardson believes, from her study of European conditions, that a system of adult education similar to that being worked out abroad could be applied in this country. "If America is going to take leadership in world affairs, this country must undergo a similar revival of learning, an awakening of interest in the study of life and all its many phases."

Dr Archibald Bouton, dean of the College of arts and pure science, New York university, who is studying at the Huntington Library, addressed the meeting on The true function of literature, which is, he said, to share the thoughts and feelings of the writers with those who read the printed page and to recreate within those who absorb it the life of the world. Dr Bouton reviewed the various ways in which the fine arts express life. He said that literature, because of its victory over time and space, is the dominant expression of human life.

Madge Jenison of New York, speaking on The river of life, defended books as a form of life, calling them appetizers for experience, standards and form, and thru them, a stimulant to the habit of thinking. Miss Jenison founded the Sunwise Turn, a famous New York bookshop, and was most interesting in reciting the principles on which she worked, her experiences and the evident success which has attended her efforts. Miss Jenison pleaded for the great book as against the common-place and inadequate and the things that are often nearer at hand and more easily obtained but which lack the true worth of the greatest works of the human intellect.

### Round-tables

Following Miss Jenison's talk, three round-tables were held. Municipal Libraries section, under the leadership of Ethel Carroll, Oxnard, heard papers by Harvey J. Addams, Los Angeles, on

Book mutilation, who advocated closer supervision of the stacks and reading rooms, verification of applicants for cards, the interception of fraudulent card-holders, etc.; by Althea Warren, San Diego, on Entertainment material, who said that in this branch of library work, it is sometimes necessary to lower the standards somewhat, for when a patron wants "The face on the barroom floor," that's what he wants and not some classical poetry. Eleanor Hague, folklorist, talked on Folk-song collecting and some of the collectors; Maryette G. Mackey, Los Angeles, on Work with foreigners. Miss Mackey pleaded that we lay aside our attitude of superiority in dealing with foreign patrons of libraries since they honestly believe that their nation and their literature outrank or equal that of any other nation.

At the School Libraries round-table, conducted by Winifred E. Skinner, Pasadena, Dr Frederick Woellner of the University of California, spoke on The part of the high-school library in the citizenship program, stating that the elimination of illiteracy is a vital requirement and that in this, books are the greatest possible aid. Helen E. Haines, Los Angeles, commented on a list of interesting new books for the high-school library. A general discussion of student cooperation in the library closed the round-table.

The round-table on hospitals, conducted by Nettie K. Gravitt, U. S. Veterans' hospital No. 24, Palo Alto, heard a most interesting talk by Dr Josephine Jackson, author of *Outwitting our nerves*, who spoke on the Therapeutic value of books.

#### Book discussions

H. O. Parkinson, Stockton, presided at the Tuesday morning session, when Helen E. Haines, Los Angeles, spoke on Modern fiction and the public library. Miss Haines opposed book censorship as a menace and urged selection, not censorship, as the librarian's function. She insisted there is no more vital influence in our lives today than that of fiction. It was never so varied, so stimulating and so illuminating as it is today. American fiction has improved greatly in recent

years and has a fresher outlook on life than ever before. Modern fiction is the mirror of today and censorship arouses a demand for the forbidden and menaces the freedom of literature.

Sydney B. Mitchell, University of California, author of *Gardening in California*, presented a symposium on architecture applicable to California, discussing various forms of architecture and pleading for fewer but better books on architecture in public libraries. Mr Mitchell used as a basis of his talk a bibliography of books of interest to builders which he had compiled. Laura C. Cooley, Los Angeles, spoke on California history and description, and Francis M. Fultz, author of *Elfin-forest*, discussed books on California out-of-doors.

The round-table for children's librarians, under Mary Oxley, Pasadena, heard papers by Cora Mel Patton, of the Drama league of America, on Drama for the child; by Frances Clarke, Los Angeles, on Experiences in a New York public library children's room; by Clara Byrne, Pasadena, on Children and poetry; Elizabeth Burnell, Los Angeles public schools, on Substitutes for sugar-coated science books, and by Helen A. Dysart, San Diego, on Recent additions to the intermediate shelves.

The Catalog and Reference round-table was conducted by E. Louise Peck, San Diego. Edith S. Newcomet, Fresno County free library, had a paper on New reference books and Frances R. Foote, Los Angeles, spoke on Consistency in classification.

The Building and Equipment round-table, under Helen T. Kennedy, Los Angeles, was very interesting. Everett T. Perry displayed and explained plans for the new Los Angeles public library building; Julia Babcock, Kern County free library, described building in her county; Mrs Theodora R. Brewitt, Long Beach, outlined a new system of heating, and C. B. Joeckel, Public library, Berkeley, spoke on Lighting, artistic and effective.

The session Tuesday afternoon consisted entirely of round-tables. The University and College round-table, presided over by J. E. Goodwin, University of

California, heard Philip S. Goulding of the same library, review the future policy of the University of Chicago libraries, and Charlotte M. Brown, University of Southern California, who spoke on How shall we subject sets of periodicals to recurring heavy usage and at the same time preserve them for following generations? It can't be done.

The Lending round-table, Blanch Unterkircher, Los Angeles, chairman, heard Miriam Van Waters of the Juvenile court of Los Angeles county speak on The library and the children. Miss Van Waters asserted that the library is one of the best agencies for the training of special children, those needing unusual educational guidance. She stated that 85 per cent of delinquency is due to improper home conditions and that the library has an important part in correcting such conditions. The library should be a place for spiritual adventure and it can do much because children approach it without a feeling of compulsion. Other points discussed were The children's reading room from the standpoint of the loan desk, by Alice P. Burgess, Long Beach; An interesting fatigue study, by Lulu Littlejohn, Pasadena; Our obligations to the public, by Zulema Kostomlatsky, Los Angeles.

At the Publicity round-table, conducted by H. O. Parkinson, Stockton, Mabel Gillis of the State library spoke on Types of newspaper publicity; Sarah H. Jacobus, Pomona, on Paid advertising and its success in publicity; George A. Diehl, Pasadena, described the recent successful bond election conducted in Pasadena, and C. B. Joeckel, Berkeley, described the use of graphs in financial publicity. Mr Parkinson used stereopticon slides to show various forms of newspaper publicity.

Prof Harold J. Stonier, executive secretary of the University of Southern California, in a lecture on Changing government, said "America has never been so lacking in political leadership as it has been in the last five years; the growing disrespect for law and the lack of political leadership can only be counteracted by the encouragement of the inquisitive

mind, and in this field the work of the library is paramount."

Business transactions at the Wednesday morning session included the endorsement of a bill now before Congress which would reduce postage on books sent from library to library; the election of Sydney B. Mitchell as a delegate to the A. L. A. conference, and the election of the following officers: President, H. O. Parkinson, Stockton; vice-president, Helen T. Kennedy, Los Angeles; secretary-treasurer, Hazel G. Gibson, Sacramento County free library.

A visit to the Henry E. Huntington library, San Marino, and to many interesting library buildings in the vicinity added to the pleasure of the occasion. The exhibits were interesting and varied, the series of floor plans and photographs being especially valuable.

The social side of the meeting was interesting beyond the ordinary. The library school dinners represented practically every school in the country. Those present who were unaffiliated were at special tables with individual hostesses. A very clever after-dinner speech by Miss Jenison on The Sunwise Turn delighted every one. Later, Donald R. Dickey, expert game photographer, displayed his film of wild game life, discussing his methods of photographing wild game and commenting on the habits of the animals portrayed. A marionette show, Snow White and the seven dwarfs, was given by the Municipal players of Los Angeles. The members appeared in costume after the show, when the chairs were cleared away and an Italian carnival, with full accompaniment, held sway.

The meeting was unusually interesting because of the wide sweep of topics discussed by unusually interesting speakers.

### A Paraphrase

There are three classes of librarians: Librarians who work for the money. They don't get much. Librarians who serve until they can find something better. Here's hoping they find it soon. Librarians who serve because they love it and cannot help it. They are the real ones.

### Library Meetings

**Alabama**—The librarians of Alabama met in annual convention at Birmingham, April 24-26, with librarians from all over the state in attendance.

The meeting opened on Thursday evening, with J. W. Donnelly, chairman of the Board of trustees, Birmingham, presiding.

Charles E. Rush, Public library, Indianapolis, was the guest of the association and the speaker of the evening. Under his subject, From a librarian's note-book, Mr Rush stressed the importance of books in the educational field. He expressed the opinion that in the coming 25 years, the library will be developed more than ever and will be considered the most important part of educational machinery.

Dr W. R. Hendrix, of the Birmingham South Highlands church, spoke interestingly on Irrigation by books, drawing an adept comparison of books with an irrigation system. Books, he said, open the horizon for people, broaden their vision and make possible a liberal education.

L. W. Josselyn and Marion E. Potts, of the Public library, Birmingham., told of the first county in the state having a book wagon and explained how the work was carried on. An interesting presentation was "An appreciation of the Kilby Prison library," written by one of the inmates and presented by Frances M. Hails of the State department of archives and history, who has charge of this work.

The other sessions were given over to round-table discussions, these covering the town and community library, college and reference problems and library work with children. An outstanding paper of these discussions was The library as a social agency in Alabama, by Myrtle Brooks, Department of sociology, Alabama college.

The association voted to hold biennial sessions after the 1925 meeting, which will be held at Fairhope, a single tax colony on Mobile Bay, in April.

The following officers were elected: President, Lila May Chapman, Birmingham; vice-presidents, Mrs Marie B.

Owen, Montgomery, Alice Wyman, Tuscaloosa and Ora I. Smith, Birmingham; secretary, Mary R. Mullen, Montgomery; treasurer, Frances Pickett, Montgomery.

**Boston**—The Free Public Library commissioners of Massachusetts held their ninth institute for librarians in Boston, April 22-25. The change in time of meeting, from summer to spring, prevented Simmons college from entertaining the meetings, consequently they were held at the Boston public library, with one or two exceptions.

Two important addresses of the meeting were those given by Dr Robert M. Gay and Curtis M. Hilliard, both of the Simmons College faculty, Dr Gay speaking on After college—What reading? and Mr Hilliard on Public health books for libraries. Edith Smaill, assistant professor of reading and speaking, Wellesley College, delighted her audience with her readings from modern poets.

Florence Overton, supervisor of branches, New York public library, at the second session, which was devoted to branch libraries, spoke most entertainingly on the field of her work. Edith Guerrier, who holds the same position in the Boston public library, followed with a similar talk. Mrs Kate W. Barney, librarian, Forest Park branch, Springfield, Mass., compared the work of a branch library with that of a small town or village library. Charles R. Green, Jones library, Amherst, under the title, If not a branch, why not twigs? told of the extension work that library is giving in serving the rural schools and isolated communities of the Berkshire Hills.

Certain morning sessions were open only to librarians and trustees of small towns, when the technique of library work and matters relating to books were discussed. There were three of these meetings, with an average attendance of 70.

At the open meetings, at which there was an average attendance of 150, topics of general interest were discussed, among them, the library and the community and the public schools and the public library. Under the first topic, J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., trustee of the Boston athenaeum,



spoke on The function of a public library, and Clarence E. Sherman of the Providence public library answered the question, Are the libraries receiving adequate support from their communities?

Following the addresses, Alexandra Sanford, children's librarian, Public library, Brookline, gave a charming marionette performance with original plays and dialogs.

At the closing session, Dr Payson Smith, commissioner of education for Massachusetts, spoke on The interdependence of school and library and the need of close cooperation. Cora A. Newton, supervisor of training, Bridgewater normal school, told What teachers expect from librarians, making a plea for librarians with both teaching and library equipment. George S. Tripp, New Bedford public library, responded with Some suggestions to teachers from a librarian, outlining ways in which teachers could make things much easier for the librarian. Earnest but friendly discussion of the subject was indulged in by both teachers and librarians.

As usual, the Board of Free Public Library commissioners paid the expenses to the institute of a few village librarians.

Registration cards showed a total enrollment of nearly 300 persons; 98 librarians were represented, 73 of them being in small towns or villages; of the 18 special librarians registered, 15 were from high schools, and 20 trustees and seven teachers were also enrolled.

On Wednesday afternoon, a motor trip to Concord and Lexington gave an opportunity for visits to libraries and historical spots, followed by a delightful tea at the Lexington public library.

**Boston**—The Special libraries association of Boston is approaching the end of its 1923-24 season. Since the beginning of 1924 there have been four meetings; in January, at the Massachusetts Institute of technology; February, the U. S. Immigration Service building in East Boston; March, the Insurance libraries association, Boston; and April, the Harvard musical association, Boston.

The meeting in January drew a record crowd for both supper and formal meet-

ing, the *raison d'être* being, not the place, but the speaker, Dr Bostwick of the St. Louis public library, who talked in his usual inspiring manner of Books and people, emphasizing the librarian's aim of service to each and every community group.

The building of the U. S. Immigration service in East Boston was a most interesting place of meeting. Mr Abercrombie, assistant commissioner, conducted a tour of the various rooms, in some of which immigrants were being detained. and J. P. Johnson, commissioner in charge, explained details of the duties and problems of such an immigration office. Prof Niles Carpenter of the Social Ethics department of Harvard followed with a talk upon the literature of immigration.

On April 28, Mary Thayer welcomed the association in the attractive rooms of the Harvard musical association, an organization founded by Harvard graduates in 1837. A resumé of the association's history by Miss Thayer revealed among its early aims the founding of a music department at Harvard and the establishing of symphony concerts. The library now has 10,000 volumes devoted entirely to music. The unique feature of this meeting was the rendering of a musical program by Ruth Canavan and Miss Proctor, both members of the association.

RUTH M. LANE  
Secretary

**Chicago**—The last meeting of the Chicago library club for the year was held at the Orrington hotel, Evanston, Illinois, on the evening of May 8.

At six o'clock, dinner was served to 125 and at 7:30, taxis conveyed the club members to the beautiful new Garrett Biblical Institute library, Northwestern University library and the Evanston public library. On return to the Orrington hotel, at a short business meeting which preceded the formal program, the following officers for the year, 1924-25, were elected:

President, Pearl I. Field, librarian, Henry E. Legler branch, Chicago public library; vice-presidents, Winifred Ver-Nooy, University of Chicago library, Nathan R. Levin, assistant-librarian, Chicago

public library; secretary, M. Lillian Ryan, librarian, Loyola University library; treasurer, Ruth G. Nichols, librarian, Federal Reserve Bank.

The book party, led by Emily Van Dorn Miller, editor of *The Booklist*, was a very delightful affair. Miss Miller introduced 15 of the members who represented various and varied titles of books. The prize for the best presentation was awarded to John F. Phelan who acted "The doctor looks at literature."

M. LILLIAN RYAN  
Secretary

The Chicago regional group of catalogers met on April 21, with 35 persons present.

The question, What is a cataloger? was presented by Eliza Lamb, University of Chicago library, who brought out the definition that a cataloger is one who knows the fundamentals of cataloging and is able to make and arrange a catalog. It was the consensus of opinion that, technically, the important part of cataloging consists in preparing a main card and being responsible for the main entry.

Pyrrha B. Sheffield of the Portland Cement Association pointed out that the librarian of a special library should be a thoroughly trained cataloger in order to be able to sell the idea of indexing the collection to the man in charge.

Discussion brought out that as yet cataloging seems to be an art rather than a science. There is a difference.

In discussing the arrangement of a public card catalog, Margaret Furness, John Crerar library, explained the arrangement of the catalogs in that library, where the problem is simplified by the use of a separate classified subject catalog.

Mary Kimble of the Newberry library spoke more directly upon the problem of a strictly alphabetical arrangement.

J. B. CHILDS  
Secretary

**Cleveland**—The annual meeting of the Library club of Cleveland and vicinity took place, April 29. New officers elected were:

President, Pauline Reich, Carnegie West branch; first vice-president, Roena

Ingham, Lakewood public library; second vice-president, Lenore M. Lingan, Cleveland Press; treasurer, Emelia E. Wefel, Cleveland public library; secretary, Alta B. Claflin, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

After the brief business meeting, Charles S. Brooks, Cleveland author, gave an entertaining reading from his most recently published book and an unpublished essay.

ALTA B. CLAFLIN  
Secretary

**Maryland**—The Maryland library association held its second meeting, April 11, with H. H. B. Meyer, Library of Congress, as the speaker. Mr Meyer spoke on Library organizations, a subject especially appropriate for a new and inexperienced association. He urged that the association stand as an organized body to promote library interests and library feeling thruout the state. He recommended especially the development of county libraries as the type of library best suited for Maryland. As a former president of the District of Columbia library association, Mr Meyer gave many helpful suggestions as to how the organization might conduct its meetings to the best advantage, and in what ways it might make itself a state-wide association.

A good attendance was registered.

LUCY S. BELL  
Secretary

#### Coming Meeting

The British library association will meet in Glasgow, September 8-13.

Lafcadio Hearn's first employer in New Orleans is still living. Colonel John W. Fairfax, a veteran of the Confederate army and a newspaper man of the 60's and 70's, writes in Creole sketches, a collection of Hearn's early newspaper articles recently published (Houghton): "I remember Hearn very well indeed. You see, that eye of his was the only thing that you could see at first—enormous, protruding. After you got used to that eye you saw that his other features were very good, and his face refined."

### Interesting Things in Print

A pamphlet compiled and distributed by the Research department of the New Orleans association of commerce bears the title, *New Orleans and her commerce*. The pamphlet contains a mine of information concerning the locality's commercial activities in every line of endeavor—products, transportation, imports, etc., and is a handy bit of reference material.

Harvard University library has received a gift in honor of the ninetieth birthday of Charles W. Eliot. It is a copy of Heylyn's *Cosmographie Containing the Chorographie and Historie of the Whole World*, second edition, printed in London in 1657. John Eliot, apostle to the Indians of Massachusetts, at one time owned the volume, which bears his autograph and marginal notes written by him.

"Landmarks in music, Boston, 1630-1924," is No. 28 in *Brief Reading Lists*, issued by the Public library, Boston, Mass., in connection with Music week. This is a selected list of books on music. No. 29 of the same series is issued under the title, *Advertising*, a selected list of books published since 1900. The present popular interest in advertising as a vocation makes this compilation a timely one.

An article full of human interest, in the *Houston Post*, April 19, tells of the recommendation to use the Public library made by a Federal judge of Houston, Texas, in an address to a group of 23 foreigners making application for citizenship papers. A letter from the city librarian, Miss Julia Ideson, is also included, setting out what the library is prepared to do for foreigners and the kindly welcome they will receive when they visit the library.

Mailing list directory and classified index to trade directories, by Linda H. Morley and Adelaide C. Knight of the Business branch of the Public library, Newark, N. J., under the direction of John Cotton Dana. McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1924.

This book of 727 pages is packed with information. It gives a list of the general trade directories and carefully analyzes all the directories covering special trades. It not only covers manufacturing and commercial lists but also churches, schools, physicians, libraries, etc. Pub-

lishers' place and price are given in each entry. Abundant *see* and *see also* references increase the usefulness. Such headings as advertising managers, buyers, purchasing agents, trade names, etc., bring together all titles listing this information. A 10 page list of books, "industrial and commercial uses for raw materials and manufactured products," will be very useful to every reference librarian. There is a wealth of material, carefully indexed and cross-indexed, but in order to make full use of the book it will be necessary to read carefully the directions for the use.

The authors have done a piece of work which will be appreciated by every reference librarian particularly, as well as purchasing agents, buyers, etc.

### The Peterborough Anthology

One dares to expect happy results from poets to whom is given the opportunity of hours free from the pressure of human associations, and clarified by natural surroundings having an inspiring atmosphere.

Edward MacDowell, poet at heart and musical composer as well as interpreter of the compositions of others, built for himself a cabin in the forest on his farm near Peterborough, New Hampshire, to which he might go apart from the world and set down the music that sang to his inner consciousness. Here he composed the Woodland lyrics and those greater tone poems outstanding in the musical writings of the United States. Just as the Concord poets, Lowell, Longfellow, Emerson and Whittier found their inspiration in nature, and as the first true American painters of the Hudson River school and the greater Inness gave their hearts to the spirit of the national anthem, "I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills," so Edward MacDowell, inheriting this idyllic fervor, wrote his music "To the Wild Rose" and "To the Deserted Farm," and in the free visioning of Gaelic forebears, handing down his inheritance to the annals of his native land. The opportunity won by hard labor was golden in spiritual elation, and this MacDowell desired to bequeath to others of creative

genius in the allied arts, when he founded the MacDowell colony of studios on his farm, which since then has grown to be of vast importance to creative artists in America.

Since the passing of Edward Mac Dowell, his devoted wife, herself a pianist and poet at heart, has developed Mac Dowell colony with the aid of trustees and friends. Every summer finds writers, poets, musical composers, and painters at work in the quiet of the forest, under living conditions encouraging to physical well being, and the social stimulation of friendliness in a circle of gifted men and women who assemble at Colony Hall and exchange their dreams and ideal visions before the hearth fire or in the gloom of a summer evening under the stars.

"The Peterborough anthology" is a selection from work of the poets who have been members of the MacDowell colony, compiled and with an introduction by Jean Wright Gorman and Herbert S. Gorman. While the poets were writing, the dramatists were at work and musicians, Mrs. H. H. A. Beach, Rossetter G. Cole and others, were engaged in their special compositions. The poets, however, had the advantage of choosing short selections from their works to tell abroad what they had done in golden summers with encouragement to hold fast the hours. About two score names are represented in verses following Edwin Arlington Robinson's tribute to Mrs. Edward MacDowell, the virtual guardian angel living in her home at "Hillcrest." This poem is so rich in wise imaginings that it would give the spirit of the Peterborough relationships far better than these lines of explanatory prose. As the editors say, the MacDowell colony is in no sense a group or a cult. The poets touch all schools and all movements from the modern free verse to distinguished conservatism. The outlook is essentially modern, abiding by the present rather than echoing the past or shining with faith in a future.

Josephine Preston Peabody's "The Nightingale Unheard" is chosen as the closing stanzas of "The Long Lane" and three

opening poem to be followed by the hauntings others as happily conceived. Alan Seegar, Padraic Colum, Maxwell Bodenheim, Hermann Hagedorn, Margaret Widdemer, Charles Wharton Stork, Robert Haven Schauffler, Lila Cabot Perry, Mary Aldis, Katherine Adams and Abbie Farwell Brown (who has just published "The boyhood of Edward MacDowell"), Hervey Allen, John Bennett, Agnes Ryan, Florence Wilkinson Evans, Du Bose Heyward, Eloise Robinson and others (would there were space for quotation and comment of each in turn) write from their hearts, some in the perfect music of earlier poets, others in broken rhythms and rhymes none the less feeling.

"The Peterborough anthology," so loyally named, is in truth an anthology of contemporary poets. It is American, that is, in the free spirit of this western world, not over sentimental, wholesome and the sort of a volume that many will carry about and at leisure turn to favorite pages to commune with brother and sister writers of verse.

It may be that had MacDowell colony not given its opportunity, this literature would not have taken shape. The volume is a monumental milestone in the history of an ideal association and the rewards of appreciation go forth from many readers to those who made the book possible.

(Published by Theatre Arts Inc. New York City.)

LENA M. McCAULEY

### Interesting Records

The Queen's Rangers is the title of a pamphlet issued in connection with the presentation of the colors of the Queen's rangers to the Public Library, Toronto, Canada, of which George H. Locke, chief librarian, is the author. This is a reprint of a paper which Mr. Locke read at a meeting of the Ontario historical society at Kingston last year.

The Queen's Rangers is a name which has been given to three battalions of Canadian soldiers. The first battalion, recruited in 1776, principally from the vicinities of Connecticut and New York, was made up of American loyalists. It took part in the American

Revolution, on the British side. The story of the battalion's activities closes with the very significant sentence . . . "the heart-rending fact remained, that the British lion had been beaten by one of her own whelps, and the regiment disbanded with heavy hearts."

The second group was called the Queen's rangers of Upper Canada. A tradition exists in military circles that this second battalion did not disband but that a detachment of it served in the War of 1812.

The third battalion of the Queen's rangers served in the Rebellion of Upper Canada, in 1837.

It is a picturesque story which is told of the hardy early Canadians which loses nothing of interest in Mr Locke's telling, tintured thruout somewhat with that feeling which is so often uncomfortably in evidence in discussing relations between two neighboring countries, not only in the past but often under present circumstances.

The biographies of several commanders in various ranks are included in the pamphlet. The appendix which closes the chapter contains a list of the members of the Queen's rangers who were included in the surrender of Yorktown, in 1781.

It is a singular coincidence that almost simultaneously with the publication of these Canadian records there was issued An Index to certified copy of the list of American prisoners of war, 1812-1815, as recorded in the records at Ottawa, Canada. This publication also contains a list of American prisoners of war who died at Princeton, Dartmoor, England, 1812-1815. The list was compiled by Mrs Henry J. Carr, of Philadelphia, and published by the Association of state presidents and charter members of the National society, U. S. Daughters of 1812.

Aristotle remarked many centuries ago that, "We need not worry about our present or our future when the people are searching for learning. Men who want to learn will never cause us any serious trouble."

## Library Schools

### Carnegie library, Atlanta

On Monday, April 28, C. E. Rush, librarian, Indianapolis public library, made a visit to the school, lecturing to the class on publicity methods used in that library. Mr Rush stopped in Atlanta on his return from the Alabama library association meeting held in Birmingham, April 24-26, which meeting was attended also by Miss Crumley and a number of graduates of the school. The acting president of the association was a graduate of the first class of the library school, Lila May Chapman, vice-director of the Birmingham public library. Miss Chapman was elected president of the association for the coming year.

The week, May 12-17, was notable for a number of special lecturers and library visits. On Monday afternoon, the class was entertained by Mrs Maude Barker Cobb and her staff in the State library, and the class was given an opportunity to see the work of the library in detail. Lectures on college library work were given by Laura Hammond, librarian of the Georgia School of Technology library. Later the class made a visit to the Technology library to see the methods and equipment of a college library and also to enjoy the famous Julius E. Brown collection of rare books. Louise McKinney, professor of literature at Agnes Scott college, lectured on The essay, and Dean Goodrich C. White of the College of liberal arts of Emory university talked on The bibliography of psychology.

SUSIE LEE CRUMLEY

Principal

### Carnegie library, Pittsburgh

Two very practical lectures on book-mending were given, April 22-23, by Gertrude Stiles of the National Library Bindery Company.

In May, Mrs Caroline Burnite Walker gave a series of five lectures on the administration of children's rooms. Howard Dice, librarian, University of Pittsburgh, gave two lectures in the course in administration.

The libraries visited on the spring trip of inspection included the Library of



Congress; two city public libraries, the library of the District of Columbia and the Enoch Pratt library; the county library at Hagerstown; the Peabody Institute reference library; Johns Hopkins University library; library of the Department of agriculture; two hospital libraries, the Walter Reed and the U. S. naval hospital. Branch libraries and a high-school library in Baltimore were also visited.

One of the pleasant occasions of the year was the visit of the students of the Western Reserve University library school to Pittsburgh. At a tea given in the class room of the school, the two groups of students had the opportunity of meeting and of making acquaintances among those who are just entering the profession. Besides the faculty and students of Western Reserve, the school had the pleasure of entertaining, also, Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle, her mother, and Miss Jessie M. Carson.

NINA C. BROTHERTON

Principal

(In a typographical error, on p. 246, PUBLIC LIBRARIES for May, it was stated that Mlle Famin was "supervisor of children's work, etc." The statement should have read "specializing in children's work, etc."—*Editor.*)

#### Drexel Institute

The students have returned from their annual field work with added experience and a keener appreciation of the theories which they have been acquiring.

The course of study in literature for children and the administrative feature of children's work has begun. Miss Engle, supervisor of work with children in the Free library of Philadelphia, lectured to the class, April 24, on What children read in a public library.

The faculty and students attended the Atlantic City meeting, May 2-3. They enjoyed the meeting and the beautiful weather at the beach.

Dr Albert C. Baugh, University of Pennsylvania, lectured on the Bibliography of literature, emphasizing the history of European literature.

Dr Montgomery, librarian of the Historical society of Pennsylvania, gave the class the history of early Pennsylvania and spoke to them of the manuscript material in the Historical Society library.

Miss Williamson, director of the Girl Scouts of Philadelphia, gave an interesting talk to the class on the Girl Scout movement in America as related to the public library.

The class is making weekly visits to the libraries of Philadelphia, the publishing houses, binderies and book shops. Philadelphia is rich in places of interest for the library school student.

The entrance examination for the class of '24-25 will be held at Drexel Institute, June 7 at 10 a. m.

ANNE W. HOWLAND

Director

#### University of Illinois

The course in books and reading for children was given this year by Jessie Gay Van Cleve, associate-editor of the *Booklist*. Miss Van Cleve spent three weeks, meeting the seniors 15 times and the juniors six times during the period. In addition to those registered for the course in the library school, two librarians from the Urbana public library attended most of Miss Van Cleve's lectures.

The library school students, chaperoned by Miss Bond and Miss Felsenthal of the faculty, made the usual biennial visit to the libraries of Decatur, Springfield and St. Louis, the trip beginning Easter Monday and closing Friday night after Easter. The party was joined at Springfield by Grace Palmer, librarian of the State Teachers' college, Springfield, Missouri, who returns next year to complete her work for the B. L. S. degree. The party, 33 in all, reports a most interesting, profitable and delightful week. The various hosts and hostesses were, if possible, more hospitable than on former occasions, and the fatigue of the week was more than compensated by the delightful hospitality offered on every side.

The registration for the summer session this year promises to be unprecedented in numbers. Over 25 applicants for the six weeks course, chiefly from Illinois, have already been accepted and

the list has been practically closed. The eight weeks' course is still receiving applicants and has reached approximately 40. The instructors in charge of the courses this summer are to be Director Windsor, Miss Bond, Miss Boyd, Miss Gramesly, of the faculty; Mary E. Goff, Ill. '11, reference librarian, University of Texas, and possibly one other instructor not yet announced. Revisers will be Lois Holladay, the regular reviser for the school, Jean Murphy and Fay Hart of the junior class.

Sister Mary Reparata (Frances Josephine Murray) has been recommended for Final Scholarship honors to the senate of the University of Illinois.

Several of the members of the staff and the school are planning European trips this summer. Among them are Fanny and Marcia Dunlap, Fenimore Schwartz, '14, Florence Currie, '06 and Helen Dawley. Miss Felsenthal of the faculty will join friends in Germany about July 1. Elizabeth Bryan, '10, of the loan department, will return from an European trip and assume her duties, June 1.

Margaret Henkel, '23-24, returns to her position at the Detroit public library.

Mrs Emma Rhoads Nickoley, '23-24, will return to the American university, Beirut, Syria.

Ralph M. Whiting, '23-24, will register in the College of education next September and fill a part-time position on the library staff.

Mildred Camp, B. L. S. '24, will do substitute work in the reference department at the university during vacation months.

Grace Lenfest, '23-24, returns to the assistant librarianship of Nebraska Wesleyan university.

Frances Church, '23-24, has been appointed an assistant in the State Teachers' College library, Springfield, Mo.

Sister Mary Reparata, B. L. S. '24, will return to the librarianship of Rosary college, River Forest, Ill.

Octavia Rogan, B. L. S. '24, returns to her position as reference librarian in the State library of Texas.

Phyllis Crawford, B. L. S. '24, will be assistant to Miss Sears in the H. W. Wilson Company, New York City, beginning, September 1.

Jeanne A. H. Everaerts, '23-24, has been appointed an assistant on the staff of the library of the University of Brussels.

Helen Dawley, '23-24, returns to her position at the University of Chicago.

Grace Anderson, '23-24, has been appointed an assistant in the catalog department of Iowa State college, Ames.

FRANCES SIMPSON  
Assistant-director

#### Los Angeles public library

At a meeting of the alumni of the Los Angeles library school, April 29, Betsy Foye, president, on the occasion of the California library association in Pasadena, 150 graduates and members of the faculty met for luncheon and the business meeting. Over \$200 was contributed for the student loan fund. The new officers are Nancy Vaughn, '20, president; Alice Mooney, '23, vice-president; Alice Scheck, '14, secretary-treasurer.

An interesting series of lectures has been given by five county librarians who presented five aspects of county library work in California. Mrs May D. Henshall, state library organizer, spoke of the State library and its service to other libraries. Miss Huntington of Santa Clara county described branch library work; Mrs Whitbeck of Contra Costa county, work with schools; Miss McCardle of Fresno, the library budget and coöperation with the board of supervisors; and Miss Provines of Sacramento county, her work with the state prison. The enthusiasm and distinctive service of each librarian gave the students definite ideas of the possibilities of county library service.

Miss Haines is giving a series of lectures on books under University extension in Los Angeles. She recently gave a course in Modern fiction in the University of California at Berkeley.

MARION HORTON  
Principal

#### New York public library

The open meetings of the A. L. A. Temporary Training board, which were held at the New York public library, April 15-17, provided opportunity for the library school students to witness a professional occasion of importance and to come into contact with a considerable number of professional leaders. The students dropped in at the meetings as their programs permitted, the school schedule for the week being lightened to allow for this. In connection with the Wednesday afternoon social hour in the week that the Training board and other visitors were here, a general invitation to

be present was extended to the delegates. A large number remained and heard Christopher Morley who happened to be the speaker for the day.

Dr Dorothy Brewster, lecturer in English at Columbia university, is now conducting a series of lectures on foreign fiction as a part of the junior course in book selection. The lectures on library buildings, and those on the history of libraries given by Mr Stevens of Pratt Institute, are now in progress, these being the parts of the joint lecture arrangement for several periods in the spring. Other lectures of special interest have been one on libraries in institutions by Florence R. Curtis of Drexel Institute; and one on the work of the Trenton public library by Howard L. Hughes, the head of the library.

Recent junior visits of interest have consisted of trips to the Brownsville children's branch of the Brooklyn public library; to the libraries of the Lincoln school and the Union Theological seminary; to the New York show rooms of Library Bureau; and to the Scribner Press.

Entrance examinations for the year, 1924-25, are to be held on Saturday, June 7.

ERNEST J. REECE  
Principal

#### New York state library

The students have returned from their month of field work followed by the annual library inspection visit which took them this year to New England libraries.

The course on book-binding and mending included six lectures, extremely practical and to the point by Wharton Miller, demonstration of book-mending by Sara Patterson and the A. L. A. exhibit on binding and mending.

The course in library work with children was conducted by Clara W. Hunt of the Brooklyn public library, May 4-10. Six lectures to the juniors dealt with the principles of the selection of books, illustrated by selected lists, and four lectures to the seniors treated of the administrative features of the work—relation of the chief librarian to his children's depart-

ment, planning and furnishing of the children's room and a historical survey of the present situation of children's work in the United States.

Zaidee Brown, in the week of May 19, completed the junior course on administration, consisting of eight lectures. An extensive reading list, prepared largely by the senior class in connection with their course on subject bibliography, and practical problems on the making of budgets and staff schedules, were included.

Students have received appointments as follows:

#### Class of '24

Dorothy W. Curtiss, first-assistant, State Normal School library, Geneseo.

Georgie H. Faison, librarian, School of education, University of North Carolina.

Edith H. John, consulting librarian, Library Extension division, State library, Harrisburg, Pa.

Berger J. O. Lundell, temporary assistant, Economics division, New York public library.

W. Taylor Purdum, librarian, Bureau of business research, Ohio State university.

Elizabeth H. Sherley, librarian, State normal school, Brockport.

#### Class of '25

Randall W. B. French, assistant and instructor in classification, Summer school of library methods, University of Michigan.

Louis T. Ibbotson, temporary assistant, New York public library.

Mrs Anne C. Jillson returns to her former position as reference assistant, Baker university, Baldwin, Kansas.

Anna C. Kennedy returns to her former position as librarian of the High-school library, Hudson, N. Y.

Ruth O'Malley, assistant, Public library, St. Joseph, Mo.

Iva Watson, librarian, Eastside branch, Public library, Evansville, Ind.

EDNA M. SANDERSON  
Vice-director

#### Pratt Institute

On Saturday, April 26, Josephine Adams Rathbone, vice-director of the school, sailed for Italy, to be absent until September. Miss Rathbone's experience abroad will include a month in Paris, assisting in the organization of the new library school to be conducted there during the fall and winter, also lecturing to the summer school at the American library in Paris, first established in 1923. It will be Miss Rathbone's longest absence from the school in many years, and

everyone wishes her a happy voyage and a rich and joyful vacation in foreign lands.

The regular Friday afternoon field work this term has included visits to the main building of the New York public library and to four representative branches; also visits to Columbia University library, the new library of Teachers' college, where the students were much interested in the architectural problems as solved by the new building, the Engineering Societies' library, and the library of the Russell Sage Foundation.

Thru the courtesy of the library school of the New York public library, the students have been attending the course of lectures on library buildings given by Ernest J. Reece; and the New York library school will attend the exchange lectures on the history of libraries by Mr Stevens on subsequent Tuesday afternoons.

The Commencement alumni supper will be held in the art gallery of the library on Wednesday evening, June 18.

EDWARD F. STEVENS

#### Simmons college

A great asset of a library school in a college is the aid it gets from experts in other departments of the college. Simmons is doubly blest because it can call on both academic departments and on other vocational schools. For instance, the talk on The personal budget of the librarian, given by Prof Dow, of the School of household economics, was one of the most helpful of the year.

We drew heavily on their help, too, in planning the two meetings which Simmons college was responsible for in the institute for librarians held in Boston, April 22-25, under the joint auspices of the Massachusetts division of libraries and Simmons. The Tuesday afternoon session of the library institute was held at Simmons college, and Dr Gay, well known to all *Atlantic* readers, consented to speak on "After college, what reading?" Dr Hilliard, also, spoke of Public health literature for libraries and gave evaluations of a number of books on the list which had been distributed to his hearers. A delightful "Poetry hour" was

given by Edith Smaill of the Wellesley faculty. Her selections were of poems she had found interesting to older boys and girls. Under the spell of her reading they appealed equally to her older audience.

On Thursday, the school adjourned to the Boston public library to attend the session of the library institute dealing with library extension service. Miss Overton described the well-knit organization of a great city system that yet respects the individuality of each branch. Miss Guerrier spoke of some of the interesting problems met in her recent survey of the Boston public library's branch system. Mrs Barney, now of Springfield, and Mr Green of the Jones library, Amherst, showed how smaller libraries may extend their influence thru their communities.

In May, Eleanor Barker talked of high-school library work in the Rogers high school, Newport, and Rebecca Rankin, of her special library work in the Municipal reference library of the New York public library.

In the close of the year, finals will begin, May 31, and commencement is scheduled for June 9.

The work of the A. L. A. Temporary Library Training board has been, naturally, a subject of keen interest to Simmons, as to all library schools. Miss Blunt, Miss Donnelly and Miss Hyde all attended the hearing of the board in New York, April 15-17.

Heretofore the offices of director of the library school and librarian of the college library have been united in one person but after July 1, they will be separated. It seems illogical, when library schools teach that a librarian of a college ought not to be a professor whose main interest is in a special department, that that condition should exist in a college with a library school in it, even tho the professor in this case is a professional librarian.

Alice L. Hopkins is to be promoted to the rank of librarian, a step sure to be heartily approved by all Simmons graduates.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY

**Western Reserve university**

An intensive brief course in U. S. Government publications has just been concluded by Carl Vitz, librarian of the Public library, Toledo, O. Mary H. Clark, librarian of the Municipal Reference branch of the Cleveland public library, gave the lecture on municipal documents. Mrs Grace Birdsall, librarian of Lakeside hospital, has concluded a series of four lectures on hospital library work. The lectures on library architecture given by Linda A. Eastman were introduced in a most interesting way by an explanation of the blue prints of the new Main library building of the Cleveland public library, now in process of erection, and a visit to the building later is anticipated.

The library administration trip to Youngstown and Pittsburgh, April 23-26, was enjoyable and of practical benefit. A novel feature was the chartering of two large motor busses for the three-hour trip from Cleveland to Youngstown, where the first day was spent in visiting the Central library and branches. The remainder of the journey was by railway. A most interesting feature of the Pittsburgh visit was attendance at the Founders' Day exercises of the Carnegie Institution. The chief address was given by Coningsby Dawson. Following this, the International art exhibit was opened. The hospitality and courtesy extended by librarians and staff in both cities were greatly appreciated and also the entertainment at the Carnegie library school, provided by the principal and faculty, when opportunity was afforded for the two student groups to become acquainted.

Harriet King Avery, '15, librarian of the Keystone State normal school, Kutztown, Pa., was a recent visitor to the school. She spoke on Personal experiences in Normal School library work, and her talk sparkled with wit and incident. The students welcomed Mary Eileen Ahern, editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, May 5. Her subject was Why library work is worth while, and the students were doubly sure it *is* worth while after hearing her.

At a meeting of the Cleveland library club recently the students had the oppor-

tunity of hearing Charles S. Brooks, Cleveland author and essayist, read from his new book, *A thread of English road*, and also a delightful, unpublished essay.

The school is gratified to report that the class of '24, consisting of 45 members, now records itself as having 100 per cent A. L. A. membership.

ALICE S. TYLER  
Director

**Who's Interested?**

A letter from a Minnesota librarian calls attention to an opportunity to buy a country estate at reduced price, with the idea of having it as a sort of retreat for librarians.

The estate is three miles east of Beloit, Wis., and contains 600 acres.

The proposal to librarians is that they take the handsome residence, 20 rooms, with 8 baths, and the surrounding beautiful park of 20 acres, at a cost of \$30,000.

Two librarians, so far, have said that they would each invest \$1000 in the proposal if a company of 30 librarians would consent to take over the property. It would need organization, with care-takers and such other provisions as are necessary for organizing suitable administration plans.

Anyone interested in the proposal may address the Harris Trust & Savings Bank, 115 West Monroe Street, Chicago.

**Changes by Hospital Librarians**

Recent appointments in the U. S. Veterans' Bureau hospital service are the following:

Ruth E. Bell, former assistant-librarian, hospital No. 60, Oteen, N. C., in charge of library, Hospital No. 63, Lake City, Fla.

Jane D. Kibby, appointed assistant-librarian, Hospital No. 50, Whipple Barracks, Ariz.

Mrs Marie R. Murray, appointed library aide, Edward Hines, Jr. hospital, Maywood, Ill.

Helen S. Ryan, former assistant librarian, Hospital No. 81, in charge of library, Hospital No. 27, Alexandria, La.

Louise Sweet, appointed assistant to the chief of the Library unit, Central office, U. S. Veterans' bureau, Washington, D. C.

Mrs Mary M. Thompson, appointed assistant librarian, Hospital No. 81, Bronx, N. Y.

Henrietta Wheeler, appointed assistant-librarian, Hospital No. 81, Bronx, N. Y.



**Department of School Libraries****Library Work With County Schools**

**Mrs A. R. Ream, librarian,  
Hamilton Co., Tenn.**

Have you heard about the \$50,000 teacher?

Some time ago it was reported that a certain school teacher had retired with a neat little pile of \$50,000. In the face of all that has been said concerning the insufficiency of teachers' salaries and the difficulties they have to keep body and soul together and maintain the appearance required of them, this report came as a startling revelation. It was an eye-opener and it caused the interested and the inquisitive to make investigation.

The teacher, when questioned, was very frank. "Well," she said, "I have lived simply; I have dressed economically; I have worked hard; I have kept long hours. The interest of my pupils has come first always; and I have made a practice of burning the midnight oil looking over their papers, and studying out plans to keep the children happy and enthusiastic over their lessons. I have put in my vacations either at a summer school for teachers or at some lucrative employment. I have denied myself most of the luxuries of life and many of its necessities. Then an uncle died and left me \$49,990. This, with the \$10 I had saved during my 40 years of teaching, enabled me to retire with a competency."

Do not rock—we librarians are in the same boat, and many of us without an uncle. On the teacher, more than is realized, falls the responsibility of shaping the plastic mind—we librarians wish to help row the boat. The great mind of the small child has combined us thus: A librarian, walking behind a group of school children, heard the following: "Get out of the way and let the lady past." "That ain't no lady, you dumb-bell, that is a library teacher."

The minds of the future citizens of our country are the most valuable gold mines we possess. On our young people must fall the liabilities of the future. They must carry on our good works and dis-

pose of our follies. The biggest investment we can make is to equip them thoroughly for the sovereignty of citizenship—in our schools and with our libraries. We will all take an oar. We pull the boat upstream.

The plan of library work with the schools in Hamilton county is unique rather than general as no other system like it is known. In 1909, the Chattanooga public library established branches in five rural high schools, room space, heat and janitor service being furnished by the school. The venture proving a success, another school center was pleading for a library and, in 1914, the sixth branch was opened. Along with many other institutions, libraries had their trials and tribulations during the war. Though the need was great, no more branches could be established until necessary funds were at hand. During the past three years, one new branch has been opened each year and nine are now functioning with marked success.

This coöperative educational plan is by no means self-sustaining. The equipment and management are maintained by an appropriation from the county tax fund. It can be dreamed of what could be done on unlimited means, but the best is done with the most to be had.

Each branch is first equipped with the necessary tools—atlas, dictionary, encyclopedia, world almanac, year-books. The reference books compare favorably in quality, but not quantity, with those of the main library. Very carefully is the next group of books selected, as they must meet the requirements of both teachers and pupils in the high-school course, grammar and primary grades—literature, useful arts, history, biography, civics and religion, leading in the order named. Fiction last, by no means least, is considered. These books must entertain the six to twenty-year old and our fund is more than two-thirds spent. O yes, these branches serve the communities as well, and it must be kept in mind that father likes to peruse and that grandmother still loves a love story.

Fiction last? By no means. A magazine rack overflows with five or six of the best—again both sexes and all ages are given consideration. And the dear public! So generous with gift magazines. And these are distributed thruout the county.

Once launched, the literary atmosphere is tested by seeking requests from the patrons, and as time moves on, adjustment takes place according to the needs.

Here a guardian angel holds the controlling oar, as much depends upon this captain of literature, with her life-saving ability, for there are many who cannot swim. She is, not always but preferably, the English teacher, a trained, efficient, untiring, character-builder, appointed as librarian, giving of her time, strength, knowledge, personality, to help all in her community to a broader vision in this wonderful world in which we live. Her salary is such that she never will be able to retire unless a \$50,000 uncle does pass to his reward and, in the passing, leaves her all.

In the nine branches, there are no less than an average of 1200 books. The work of preparation of these books takes place in the county department of the main library where the books are accessioned, classified and cataloged by the county librarian. Each book is sent to its own respective branch, there to remain until it has served its usefulness, perhaps to be rebound and serve a second lifetime in its own home branch.

Originally, each branch was required to be opened half an hour each school day, but each librarian in charge is a faithful, conscientious person who remains at her desk as long as a patron is within the four walls. Hers is a "rush" hour true to the definition. She receives books, charges books, directs, orders, answers—her eyes, ears, tongue and hands are all busy at one and the same time.

She is truly a "reader's guide" as she supervises the selections of the primary tots, who delight in the Overall boys and Sunbonnet girls; the intermediates she directs to the shelves where Merry adventures of Robin Hood and Tappan's interesting Heroes of progress await them; and on to the splendid young men and

women rounding out efficient courses in the high school, familiarizing them with books relating to agriculture, economics, masters of painting, women who make our novels, and many others. At the same time she is handing a child Enchanted April, to take home to mother, and says to another, "Carry this magazine to your father and tell him to read the article marked in it." For so the way she "cries her wares" and reaches out from the school into the home—the bulwark of our nation.

When the last question is answered, the last book stamped, the last child homeward bound, she closes the door and takes a survey of where the cyclone passed. This molder of character, already having served a strenuous day in the school room, settles down to—work.

She discharges books, replaces them on shelves, files cards, records the day's circulation and adds the reference questions—that reminds her that some one asked for How ice is made; What are the powers of the President? Also look up Fable of the bees, and Tools of ancient Egypt. The little boy who wanted to read about Bugs and bees and things, and the girl in the history class who lost herself in the pages of The Jessamy bride, must each be sent a notice that the books are overdue. The literary club in the community had naturally put her on the program committee, and more minutes are spent in collecting the material needed for the Latin and music clubs. She takes a turn at many oars in the boat. At the close of the month, from her records, she fills and mails a report card which enables the main library to know the result of the month's work.

The nine branches total 12,000 books with an average circulation of 8250v. a month or 45 a day. The greatest total circulation was reached in January, 9528. The greatest circulation in any one branch was attained in March, 2254. A branch with that record is ready for a library building with a librarian on duty all day.

The average scholastic population of these centers is 456. The registration average is 476—remember these branches serve the communities as well. And in

serving the communities the borrowers of books, in each instance, more than half exceed the population of the community.

Many and varied are the incentives used to stimulate wholesome reading outside of the students' required lists. Children's Book week, last November, was a decided success and would furnish a topic hours in length. This year, a friend of the boys and girls promoted a reading contest, selecting 12 titles and presenting each branch with a copy of each, requesting in return that each contestant agree to read the books, a chapter daily from the Bible, and write a 500 word theme on a book or character. The Milk campaign was observed in these branches, attractive posters and books on nutrition being displayed. The American Chemical Society prize essay contest was an absorbing interest for weeks. Book jackets with their concise reviews, posted on the bulletin boards before the arrival of the books, keeps an air of apprehension around these literary centers. A few new books each week makes for a healthy curiosity, creating a desire to "drop by the library—might miss something." Comparing titles liked best by students in one school with those of another is quite exciting. Story-telling is the latest fad and high-school students tell the stories to the intermediates and primaries. And now we are all a-buzz over the coming next week of Hugh Lofting, the creator of *Dr. Dolittle*.

A few thoughts splashed here and there by the county librarian when the round of visits is made help to bail out the water, stop up the leaks and pulls the boat farther up the stream. Noting any waning interest on the part of our oarsmen, a trip to No-man's land, with Jonathan Swift for a guide, is suggested; to a complaining one, a hint to go with Oliver Goldsmith to the Deserted village and for awhile forget the strenuous life of America. Or, Have you read about the feather bed? and The iron puddler is eagerly sought by one who would have scorned to read the biography of James J. Davis. Do you know any mean person? If you do, you may be sure he has not read A Christmas carol. The county branch librarian is wondering why the

sudden popularity of this particular volume.

Having passed these nine "lighthouses," our boat travels a long way near the shore but many hands are holding oars. For some, there is a long, long journey ahead, 12 years until the dawn of that far distant commencement day. There are 56 rural schools not within reach of these branches. To meet this situation, in the Chattanooga public library there are provided 150 sets of supplementary readers which may be carried to the pupils by the teachers—God bless the teachers and to their crown add a star for every book they have "toted"! It is impossible to determine an accurate circulation of these books and the far-reaching benefit to the rural folk. Parents and pupils alike enjoy the printed pages which are selected to cover history, travel, biography, literature, pictures, painters, plant and animal life, manufacturing, citizenship, fairyland and the Bible. Last year the circulation of these readers was 20,506, with but seven books unaccounted for. This record speaks a remarkable appreciation and cooperation existing among the county co-workers. The school 36 miles distant has the distinction of using 62 sets of these readers, almost doubling the record of any other school.

Stagnant water is never encountered, and the human interest stories returning to the main source would fill a volume.

That this system of libraries is not "Love's labor lost" was echoed a year ago in the state superintendent's statistics regarding the efficiency of the county school system, showing that Hamilton county ranked two points higher than the highest state in the nation.

"The safety of the world today lies in our ability to educate the masses and the classes of our people into right ways of living and thinking. Do not the very crises thru which our country is passing show us more clearly our duty, reveal to us the dire necessity of our work? Without free educational institutions, the tax-supported public school and the tax-supported public library, our democracy is doomed. A million boys and girls under 16 years of age come from our schools yearly; millions of foreigners are clamor-

ing for admission to our shores. Freedom is found only where there is intelligence."

Let us row steadily on, so educating the people of our time as to continue the guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to ourselves and to our children's children.

### Library Section Meeting

#### Tennessee Education association

"The Library in relation to the school" was the dominant note in the Library section meeting of the Tennessee educational association held at Nashville, Tenn., April 17-19.

Owing to a bereavement in her family, Etta Mathews, Knoxville high school, was prevented from presiding as chairman of the meeting. About 30 persons were in attendance.

Mary E. Baker, University of Tennessee, made the audience know instruction in the use of a library should be begun in the home with the parent teaching the child how not to misuse books. If instruction in the use of a library were given before the pupils reached college, the lives of freshmen and college librarians would be less fraught with difficulties.

Mrs Ream, Chattanooga public library, gave, thru story and fact, the result of her experience as a county librarian serving nine community and school libraries located in Hamilton county.

C. H. Stone, George Peabody college, pictured such ideal standards for school libraries that the realization of them would be heavenly for those school librarians of the state who are serving with poor equipment.

Dr Charles S. Pendleton, professor of English, Peabody college, Nashville, aroused his audience from lethargy by his too vivid picture of the "mouse-like" librarian who was content with things as they are rather than as they ought to be.

Splendid results were revealed by Kate Farrow, Whitehaven, when she told of the Shelby County reading circle.

In defining the school and not limiting the income, Nora Crimmins, Chattanooga public library, spoke on The first hundred books for a school library.

S. L. Smith, field secretary of the Julius Rosenwald fund, Nashville, spoke on state extension work. This prompted lively discussion and revealed the facts that the State library extension department suffered a decrease in their budget during the past year because an unexpended balance made the legislators feel the amount they had previously appropriated was not necessary.

The "humble pie" was credited with much of the "development of the school library" in Robertson county, by Hilda Thomae, but the real inspiration for a library in every school in that county was none other than the supervisor of Robertson County schools, herself.

Etta Mathews, Knoxville high school, made a splendid contribution to the program by giving a report on a Library questionnaire. Only seven high-school librarians are employed in the state and five of the seven are in East Tennessee. Such questionnaires reveal true conditions and show how "few are the laborers and how great the harvest."

Book-lists were discussed from various angles. The presence of a bookseller at the meeting and the injection of his viewpoint in contrast to that of the librarians pertaining to book-lists, made the present know of the mutual helpfulness one can render the other.

With the election of Mary E. Baker, librarian, University of Tennessee, as chairman and Kate Farrow of Whitehaven as secretary, the meeting adjourned until next year.

*Buffalo's Textbook*, which has been adopted by the Department of education for use in the Buffalo schools, 222 p., ill., is available to any library by sending a request and six cents postage to the Public library, Buffalo, N. Y.

### N. E. A. Program

The program for the Library department of the N. E. A. is under construction for the meeting to be held in Washington, D. C., June 29-July 4. With Willis H. Kerr, Kansas State teachers college, Emporia, as president and Harriet A. Wood, State department of education, St. Paul, Minn., as secretary, a worth-while meeting is assured.

### Library Section—Inland Empire

The annual meeting of the Library section of the Inland Empire teachers association was held in Spokane, Washington, April 9, Elizabeth T. Stout presiding. Lucile F. Fargo was appointed temporary secretary.

A program devoted more especially to the problems of the small school library was carried out as follows:

Books for a small school library—Their selection and care, Edith A. Hibbard, State Normal School library, Lewiston, Idaho.

Magazines for a small school library—Their selection and care, Theodore Norton, State Normal School library, Cheney, Wash.

Review of Nathaniel W. Stephenson's Lincoln, Prof Carl Mauelshagen, history department, State college, Pullman, Wash.

Miss Hibbard's talk was a very practical outline of the simple but necessary technical processes involved in the care of books in the small library. She explained that it was similar in substance to the course given prospective teachers in the Lewiston State normal school.

Mr Norton emphasized the value of periodical literature in the school library and thought that most periodicals worth subscribing for were worth binding.

The review of Lincoln by Prof Mauelshagen was a happy ending to an otherwise technical program.

The following are the officers for the ensuing year:

Chairman, Edith A. Hibbard, librarian, State Normal School library, Lewiston, Idaho; secretary, N. Grace Reely, librarian, High school, Boise, Idaho.

School libraries have an important place in the educational machinery of the rural districts where in great areas with sparse population, reading matter is most important.

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"Every book presents itself to its student either as a body of knowledge which he may believe, or as a law which he may obey, or as an inspiration and an influence which may tell upon his spiritual nature. You cannot picture to yourself any other kind of approach and offer which a book can make to him who takes it up to read it."—*Phillips Brooks*.

### News from the Field

#### East

Grace A. Dougan, B. L. S., N. Y. S. '23, has been appointed head cataloger at Wesleyan University library, Middletown, Conn.

Ethel Garey, Simmons '18, is to do a piece of library organization during the summer for the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, 50 State Street, Boston.

Jeanne Butterworth, Simmons '19, was married to Irvin Gravely Ammen, May 31, at Hopedale, Mass. Miss Butterworth was for some time librarian of the Elmwood library, Providence, R. I.

The annual report of the Beebe memorial library, Wakefield, Mass. shows: Books on the shelves, 23,839; circulation, 106,244v.; registered borrowers, 7599; population served, 13,025; income, \$16,026; expenditures—books, \$3516; salaries, \$7582.

A bill has recently become effective in Massachusetts authorizing the Massachusetts Board of free public library commissioners (but without appropriation for the same) to extend its service in an advisory capacity to libraries in the state and county institutions. It is believed that the passage of the bill opens the way to constructive service to the institutions of the state.

The 1923 report of the Public library, Bangor, Me., states that the largely increased book fund has made possible many new ventures—the beginning of a good library in music; a professional library for teachers and a deposit of books in the local hospital, with the possibility of a real hospital library in the near future. In addition, an important move in the direction of libraries for the grade schools has been made. The end of the year shows the plan reaching completion and by the beginning of the next school year, every grade school room in the city, including kindergartens, will be supplied with a small library and the suburban schools will have collections of books for both children and adults.

Other items of interest are: Total collection on shelves, 90,000v.; number of registered card holders, 8021; representing 31 per cent of the population; total



circulation, 146,548v., an increase of 6.8 per cent over the previous year. Fiction circulation shows a decrease of more than two per cent over last year. Renewals in the adult department have been abandoned, books being charged for four weeks instead of two.

#### Central Atlantic

Louise Keller, Pratt '23, was married, April 23, to Rev Arthur McKinley Depew.

Marion P. Bolles, Pratt '11, has taken a position in the Metropolitan museum of art, New York.

Mary Rogers, Simmons '16, was married to Philip Lathrop Smith, April 11, in New York City.

Mary Gerney Matthews, N. Y. P. L. '22-23, has been appointed children's librarian of the Public library, Bloomfield, N. J.

Laura Selkregg (Pratt) has joined the staff of the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, and will be branch librarian at West End branch.

Harriot R. Ewald, Pratt '21, has been made librarian of the Central branch of the Y. W. C. A., 610 Lexington Avenue, New York.

Mrs Veva D. Phelps, N. Y. P. L. '21-23, high-school librarian of Pelham, N. Y., has been appointed assistant in the library of the Washington Irving high school, New York City.

Katherine E. Schultz, N. Y. S. '20-21, has resigned as assistant cataloger at Vassar college to go to Skidmore college, Saratoga, N. Y., as associate professor of library science and assistant librarian.

Mary M. Shaver, B. L. S., N. Y. S. '18, has resigned as head cataloger at Vassar college to become professor of library science and associate librarian at Skidmore college, Saratoga, N. Y.

George William Bergquist, N. Y. P. L. '21-23, assistant in the economics division, New York public library, has been appointed Fleet librarian of the Navigation bureau, U. S. navy department.

Alice M. Dougan, B. L. S., N. Y. S. '14, has resigned as assistant-librarian of Purdue university to become editor of the *Readers' Guide*, published by the H. W. Wilson Company, New York City.

Aline E. Sanborn, N. Y. P. L. '21-22, assistant in the circulation department, New York public library, has been appointed assistant in the library of the De Witt Clinton high school, New York City.

The report of the Public library, Troy, N. Y., gives the following: Circulation, 112,760v. thru 20 agencies with 57,099v. on the shelves, in a population of 72,013. Income, \$26,228; expenditures, \$19,448—salaries, \$10,437.

The annual report of the Public library, Perth Amboy, N. J., Edith H. Crowell, librarian, records an increase in circulation of 10,567v. for the past year, evenly distributed between the children's department and the adult work. There are 7000 active borrowers, with 18,000v. on the shelves.

Population served, 45,000. Expenditures for the year, \$17,500.

More than 4000 questions on all sorts of topics were answered by the reference department. Classes from the schools were instructed in the use of books and libraries. Material for debates on the soldiers' bonus, prohibition, immigration, ship subsidies, the League of Nations, and other leading issues, has been furnished. There were 1251 pictures lent from the library's collection of 4000. These are mounted on cards of uniform size. Collections of books have been placed in class rooms in outlying schools, in one of the fire houses and in the smaller factories.

Many appreciated gifts were received during the year.

Besides bulletins on various subjects, special exhibits were held.

Twelve organizations met regularly in the library and several others occasionally.

The exhibit of original documents in the Tercentary celebration at the State library, Albany, N. Y., is very interesting. The charter of Charles II to the Duke of York, 1664, the original deed to the site of Albany, 1630, given by the Mohawk Indians, the first charter of Albany, commissions, maps, early prints, newspapers, books, etc., are full of interest.

The exhibit is under direction of Peter Nelson and Walter S. Biscoe.

## Central

Jennie A. Hulce has returned to the staff of the John Crerar library as assistant cataloger.

Janet Jerome, Pratt '07, has accepted the position of teacher-children's librarian at the Public library, Gary, Ind.

Emma Wiecking, N. Y. P. L. '20-22, assistant librarian, State teachers' college, Mankato, Minn., has been appointed librarian of the same library.

Mrs Frances Wells Olsen, for three years children's librarian, Public library, Kewanee, Ill., has resigned and has gone to Danville to live.

Margaret Ormond, Simmons '17, was married to William Bailey, April 11, in Detroit. Mr and Mrs Bailey are to live at 167 South Dickerson Avenue, Detroit, Mich.

Dorothy N. Ribenack, N. Y. P. L. '21-22, instructor in the training class of the library association, Portland, Ore., has been appointed assistant in the cataloging department of the Public library, Cleveland, Ohio.

Marjorie F. Potter, N. Y. S. '22-23, has resigned as first assistant in the library of the New York State college for teachers at Albany to take the course in library work with children at the library school of Western Reserve university, Cleveland, Ohio.

Gertrude Forstall has been appointed cataloger in the John Crerar library to succeed A. G. S. Josephson whose resignation was accepted, January 1. Miss Forstall has been assistant cataloger for a number of years and acting cataloger in Mr Josephson's absence.

Jean Hawkins, B. L. S., N. Y. S. '02, who is temporarily engaged in reorganizing the catalog department of the Public library, Albany, N. Y., will again be in charge of the instruction in cataloging at the Summer school of library methods, University of Michigan.

The annual report of the Public library, Macomb, Ill., records a circulation of 23,353v., with 14,078v. on the shelves, thru 3871 active borrowers. Non-fiction made up 21 per cent of the circulation. Receipts for the year, \$8475; expenditures—library salaries, \$600; assistant, \$560; repairs, \$1823; other expenses, \$1793; balance on hand, \$3699.

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Donna E. Sullivan, Owosso, Mich., has assumed the librarianship of the Peter White public library, Marquette, Mich. Miss Sullivan was formerly connected with the Michigan State normal school, was children's librarian at Jackson and later branch librarian in Detroit. Since January, 1923, she has been chief of the extension department, Flint.

In point of service, as indicated by its statistics of book use, the fiftieth year of the Public library, Galesburg, Ill., which closed March 31st, 1924, was the most successful one in the history of the institution. Thru all agencies, representing a home use of 169,506 and a reference use of 58,617, the total circulation was 228,123v., an increase of 20,841 over last year, both records exceeding former ones. The library now contains 60,297v. and its borrowers number 7212. The total receipts for the year were \$21,845 and the disbursements, \$18,022.

The annual report of the Public library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, records a total circulation of 314,110 v., an increase of 14,472; registered borrowers, 16,356; books on the shelves, 51,852. The need of more titles and duplicates to supply the insistent demands is noted. Total expenditures, \$30,510; books, \$6,122; salaries of staff, \$14,831.

The outstanding event of the year was the moving of the juvenile department from the main floor to the auditorium on the second floor and the re-arrangement of the reading and reference rooms. The accommodation of adult patrons and the crowded condition of the shelves necessitated the change.

N. D. C. Hodges, chief librarian of the Public library, Cincinnati, Ohio, since April, 1900, has resigned, to take effect, June 30.

The library has had a wonderful growth under Mr Hodges' administration—from 30,108 borrowers to 109,330, and from a circulation of 511,334 to 2,090,000. In addition to the main library, in the heart of the city, doing a prodigious amount of work, especially in reference, there are 11 large branches, 15 smaller ones and over 300 library activities in successful operation, devised and provided by Mr Hodges.

The Board, in accepting Mr Hodges' resignation, presented to him inscribed resolutions setting forth full appreciation of his work and high esteem of his personal worth.

A Harvard graduate, Mr Hodges spent two years in the study of science at Heidelberg, teaching at Harvard on his return. He was editor of *Science*, 1883-93. He began his library career in the New York public library in 1895, going to Harvard library in 1897, and then to Cincinnati. He was president of the A. L. A., 1909-10.

The annual report of the Newberry library, Chicago, for 1923, gives the following figures: Readers, 55,636; books used by readers, 158,850; added during the year, 7086v.; number of books in the library, 413,578. The additions included many rare and valuable early printed books, among which were Edmund Spenser's *Shepherd's calendar*, 1591, Sir Thomas Elyot's *Image of Governance*, 1541, Henry Peacham's *Valley of varietie*, 1638, the first edition of Dante's *Convivio*, 1490, and a fine copy of the rare *Euclid*, printed in Venice, 1482. One of the most interesting of the collections now in process of acquisition consists of photographic copies of early manuscripts in the Maya and allied languages of Central America and Yucatan.

There was a marked increase in the number of out-of-town visitors to the John M. Wing foundation, and, as in the case of the Edward E. Ayer collection on the North American Indian, many letters were received from those unable to come in person. The department of genealogy and local history maintained its accustomed popularity, 23.6 of the total number of the year's readers being recorded there.

Four exhibitions were held during the year: Illuminated manuscripts of Western Europe, bookbindings of the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, art and architecture of the Maya Indians, and the "Fifty books of 1923," a loan exhibition under the auspices of the American Institute of graphic arts. The library issued in multi-graphed form a checklist of its books printed in English before 1641, com-

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piled by Mae I. Stearns of the library staff.

The report states that the principal clientele of the library continues to be advanced students and teaching staffs of the local universities, high-school and grade-school teachers, and the professional and business man or woman who is pursuing some branch of the humanities.

#### South

Marguerite Higgs, Simmons '18, was married to William Robert Everett, April 2, in Greenville, N. C.

Julia M. Coombs, Simmons '18, was married to George Cecil Gibbs, April 23, in Apalachicola, Florida.

Mary Hiss, B. L. S., N. Y. S. '20, has been appointed librarian of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute library at Blacksburg.

Gertrude L. Woodin, N. Y. S., '99-1900, will join the staff of the library of Marshall college, Huntington, W. Va., for the session of the summer school.

Announcement has been received of the marriage, May 10, of Fanny A. Noyes, Ill. '11-12, to Warren E. Knapp, at Park Ridge, Ill. They will be at home after July 1 in Pulaski, Va.

Mrs Helen M. Richards, secretary of the Vermont Free Public Library department, has resigned her position to become librarian of the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt hospital, Towson, Md.

Katherine A. Searcy, N. Y. S. '07-08, has resigned her position in the order department of the Cleveland public library to become first assistant in the loan department of the University of Texas library, Austin.

The annual report of the Public library, Dallas, Texas, records: Receipts for the year, \$37,478; expenditures, \$33,845; circulation, 254,728 v., of which the adult total was 204,747 and the juvenile total, 49,981; card holders, 9,393.

Increased use of the library for all kinds of educational activities and as a sort of "adult continuation school" is noted in the annual report of the Public library, Little Rock, Ark. The new club

room recently opened is the meeting place of 20 study and civic clubs.

The library has been the recipient of many valuable gifts. The entire collection of books now numbers 37,964v., of which 13,356v. have been donated. In 1913, the library received a collection of 8000 rare old books, especially rich in French literature and the fine arts; in 1919, a valuable addition of 300v. was made to the French collection; in 1923, the Camp Pike library of 4500v. was donated to the library by the Bureau of commerce, and a gift of \$2500 was received from Sarah H. Henely of Chicago, at one time a teacher in the Little Rock schools.

#### West

Miriam E. Clay, Ill. '19-20, has resigned from the reference department of the University of Iowa, to become a member of the library staff of the Omaha Central high school, August 1.

#### Pacific Coast

Julia Crocker, Simmons '23, has been appointed senior assistant in reference at the Public library, Tacoma, Wash.

Mildred Schaer, Los Angeles '18, has been appointed librarian of the Bell Telephone Company in Los Angeles.

Pauline M. McCauley, N. Y. S. '10-11, has been appointed first assistant in the circulation department of the Seattle public library.

Cornelia Marvin, state librarian of Oregon, has recently returned from an eight months' sojourn abroad, visiting Italy, France and Spain. Altho Miss Marvin's trip was recreational, she made visits to several interesting libraries, being particularly enthusiastic about what she saw at the American library in Rome.

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